

Britain prepares for compulsory call-up

Bush stands firm on deadline for Iraqi withdrawal

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Editor

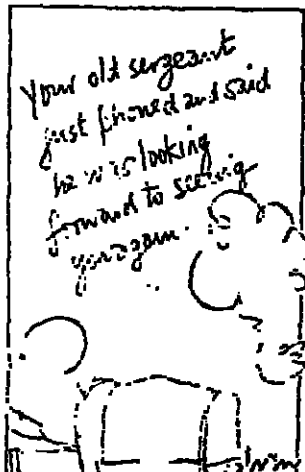
PRESIDENT Bush said yesterday that he would stand firm on the United Nations deadline for President Saddam Hussein's troops to leave Kuwait.

"I think at midnight (January 15) if he's not totally out of Kuwait, the UN sanctions must be fulfilled," Mr Bush said, adding that he still hoped for a peaceful solution. A UN security council resolution has authorised the use of force from January 15 if Iraq does not withdraw.

Iraq also said yesterday that it wanted peace and dialogue but continued to refuse dates proposed by Washington for talks.

In Brussels, James Baker, the US Secretary of State, warned other Nato foreign ministers that close to the deadline President Saddam might make a partial withdrawal, a move he described as a ploy.

The risk of war was underlined yesterday as the British government called for 1,500 medical volunteers to come forward and laid the legal basis for a compulsory call-up.



It also warned thousands of British families in some areas of the Gulf to send home their dependents "well before" the January 15 deadline for Iraq to withdraw from Iraq.

Tom King, the defence secretary, said he hoped that sufficient volunteers would be found without the need for a compulsory call-up. He announced improved incentives for volunteers but added: "If in spite of these measures, insufficient volunteers come forward, I will need to call out individual ex-regular reservists compulsorily."

The defence ministry is mainly seeking those with medical skills, reflecting fears that any attack on Iraqi forces in Kuwait could lead to heavy casualties. Many of the injured would be flown home to hospitals which made contingency preparations two months ago.

The Queen signed an order in council which would give authority for a compulsory call-up, but Whitehall sources said the government "did not envisage" a need for this. The hope is that improved terms will attract reservists or members of the Territorial Army to come forward. A ministry spokesman said their jobs would be protected by law, and they would receive 20 per cent more than the ordinary salary for their rank, to make up the difference between civilian and service pay.

"People have probably been hesitant to come forward because they were worried about their jobs," an official said. The ministry will also pay a call-up gratuity. The amount was not announced but Whitehall sources said it would be over £200.

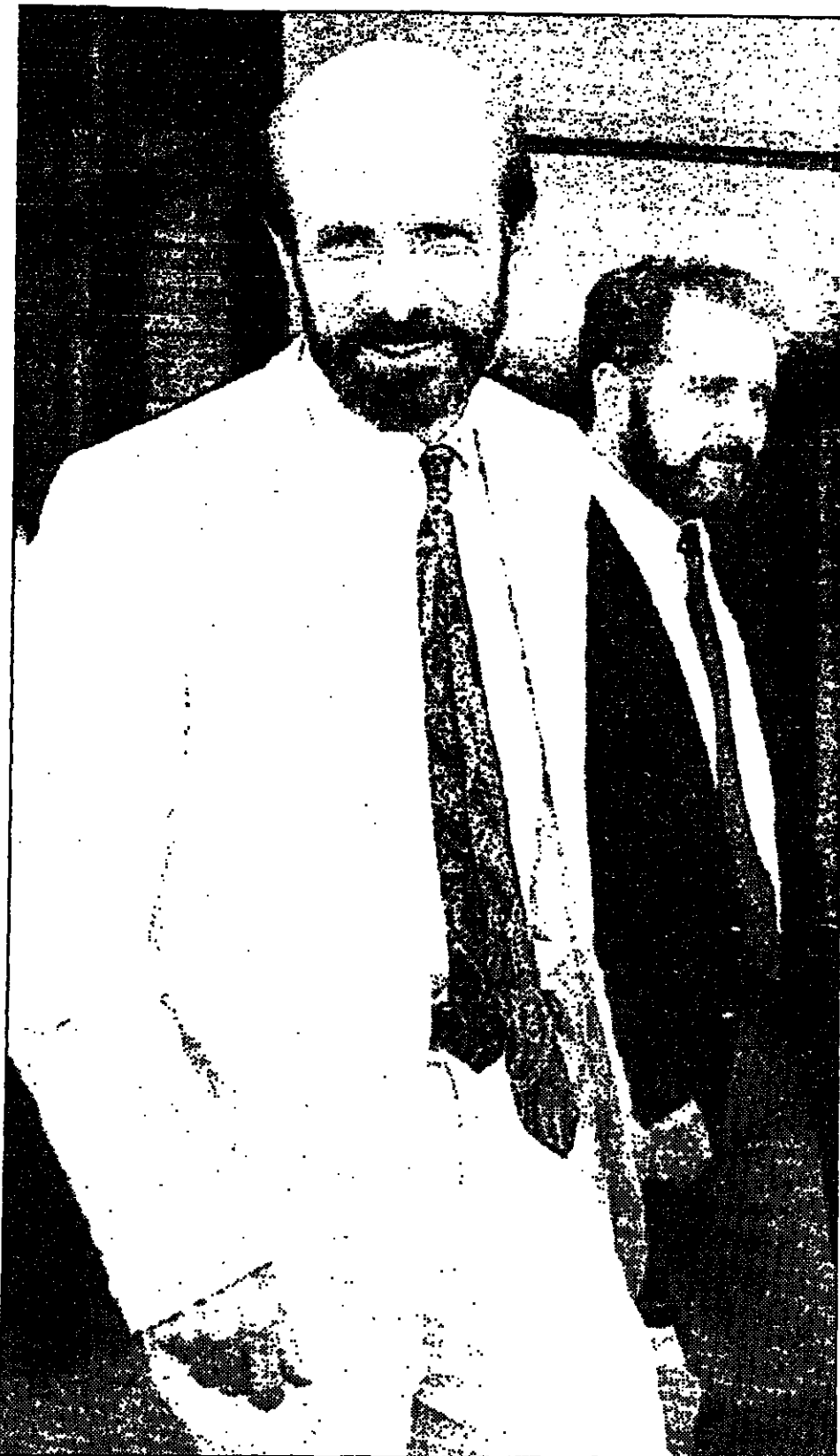
The Foreign Office advised

British dependents to leave Bahrain, Qatar and parts of Saudi Arabia. It described this as a "commonsense precaution" which did not imply any worsening of the situation in the last few days, but it contrasted sharply with previous advice. Tourists had been advised to stay away and British residents were told not to bring their children out to some areas of the Gulf for the Christmas holidays, but there was no suggestion until yesterday that those already there should return.

The advice applies to families in Bahrain, Qatar, the eastern region of Saudi Arabia, and the Saudi cities of Riyadh and Tabuk. It is likely to cause a rush to book air tickets but the government hopes that if the exodus starts early an emergency airlift will be avoided.

This was underlined by different advice being given to businessmen and those with jobs. The Foreign Office said it was not asking those in employment to leave, nor were employers being advised to send non-essential staff home. In an apparent hint that this could change it added: "They should register their arrival with the closest British diplomatic mission and should tell the mission how long they expect to stay."

Bush's hope, page 9



After: Weston, a little loose under the collar, but feeling great yesterday

Ambassador shaken but not stirred

From A CORRESPONDENT IN BAGHDAD

MICHAEL Weston, the British ambassador to Kuwait, until Sunday and the last foreign envoy to remain in occupied Kuwait, looked a little underweight, but no worse for wear as he addressed foreign journalists here prior to flying on to Jordan and eventually to London to give his report to the foreign secretary.

He insisted gamely that he and six other embassy staff, who arrived here aboard an Iraqi Airways shuttle from Kuwait City, could have held out on available supplies of tuna, rice and water, for another two to three months.

"We could have gone on surviving," said Mr Weston, dressed in a beige suit and looking "terrific except for being a bit loose under the collar", according to one em-

bassy official. The ambassador was also confident he would be going back to resume his duties.

"We didn't want to leave at all, we wanted to stay until the legitimate government was restored, and we were very sorry it was decided we should not stay," he said.

Mr Weston barricaded the front door of the embassy, turned the lock, then climbed down a ladder from a first-floor window, bringing to a close the longest embassy hold-out since the Iraqi invasion on August 2. The Americans left their embassy nearly a week ago.

He attributed his extraordinary stamina to the "ingenuity" of Larry Banks, the embassy consul, who tended the vegetable garden.

On Kuwait, Mr Weston

said: "It is a complete and utter mess. There was nothing to see on the drive to the airport on Sunday because there was really nothing left."

He had been posted previously at the embassy in 1961, when Iraq was on the verge of over-running the tiny sheikhdom before British soldiers were sent in.

Yesterday, staying at the residence of the British ambassador in Baghdad, he had his first shower, hot or cold, since the invasion. "I'm glad you are meeting me now, rather than earlier on," he joked.

He insisted he was "not in the least" a hero. "The heroes were the (British in Kuwait) community as a whole who showed great courage, determination and initiative in the way in which they held out."



Before: ambassador who refused to desert his post

Soviet deputies cold shoulder Gorbachev plea for new powers

From MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Gorbachev demanded strong new powers to stop the Soviet Union disintegrating under pressure from "dark forces" but met a hostile reception yesterday from delegates at the Congress of People's Deputies.

Despite Mr Gorbachev's appeal, Nursultan Nazarbayev, president of the central Asian republic Kazakhstan and tipped in some reports last week for the post of Gorbachev's vice president, made an unexpectedly fierce attack on the Soviet leadership.

Mr Nazarbayev argued for the most generous possible interpretation of the republics' sovereignty and a return to the radical economic reform plans of the summer. His ten-minute speech attracted loud applause and followed an unconvincing performance by President Gorbachev, whose hour-long defence of perestroika and appeals not to panic were received without enthusiasm.

Afterwards, many delegates said that the president's speech was weak and disappointing.

Others accused him of taking too optimistic a view of developments in the Soviet Union. "He does not see what we see," one said.

One of the problems facing the Soviet Union was exemplified by the two large empty spaces in the congress hall where the delegations from the Baltic republic of Lithuania and the trans-Caucasian republic of Armenia should have been seated. Both delegations are boycotting the proceedings - Lithuania because it no longer regards itself as part of the Soviet Union; Armenia in protest against continuing violence in Nagorno-Karabakh, the mountainous region inhabited mainly by Armenians but administered by the republic of Azerbaijan.

The two other Baltic delegations intend to withdraw after the debate on the state of the country which followed President Gorbachev's address and continues today.

The congress, the first meeting of the full parliament since the one which made Mr Gorbachev president last March, opened with an immediate and passionate call for a vote of no confidence in the president by a young woman delegate, Sazhi Umaltova, from the autonomous republic of Chechen-Ingushetia in the south, who

argued that he had brought the country to ruin. "Having disrupted the country and divided its people, he goes to the world with outstretched hands," she said, alluding to his quest for credits and aid from abroad. "You may favour charity of this sort, but I feel insulted and humiliated."

A vote was taken on whether to include a no-confidence motion on the congress agenda, and the proposal was decisively rejected. While few doubted Mrs Umaltova's sincerity, there were suggestions that her proposal had been engineered to get the issue out of the way at the start and smoke out the president's secret opponents. The vote on whether to include the motion on the agenda was "registered" and how delegates voted will be published.

Nadir in search of £3.5m bail

By ANGELA MACKAY

ASIL Nadir, chairman of Polly Peck International, the fresh fruits to hotels group, was forced to spend last night in Brixton prison after a court rejected some of those who stood surety for his record bail of £3.5 million.

Mr Nadir, a Turkish Cypriot businessman who built PPI from a small East End clothing company into a conglomerate with a stock market value of £2 billion before its collapse in October, was charged with 18 sample offences of theft and false accounting involving more than £25 million.

Sir David Hopkin, the chief stipendiary magistrate, sitting at Bow Street court, granted bail of £3.5 million, of which £2 million was a cash deposit from Mr Nadir, and £1.5 million was to be from up to five sureties. Mr Nadir is due back in court on 28 January.

By late afternoon however, sureties had not been settled, and Sir David refused to release Mr Nadir into the care of a partner of his solicitors until the money arrived.

Further bail offers will be heard at Bow Street court from noon today.

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INSIDE

17 years for blackmailer



A former detective was sentenced yesterday to 17 years' imprisonment for his "cunning and persistent" £3.75 million blackmail plot against Heinz and Pedigree Petfoods. Rodney Whitehead, aged 43, of Hornchurch, Essex, had threatened to murder babies and ruin companies unless he was paid large amounts of money.

Listen in mother
Babies in the womb can hear sounds and even learn to recognise tunes, the British Psychological Society will be told today.

Panto problem
By overloading pantomimes with television catchphrases and celebrities, theatres may be missing a valuable chance to win new audiences.

Hard times
Both America's international airline giants, Pan Am and TWA, have fallen on hard times and may all but disappear from the blue ribbon routes to London.

Merger off
Midland Bank and the Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation have abandoned merger plans and the Hongkong Bank is to become a British-registered holding company.

Snow reports
The Times's service of snow reports begins today and will continue until April. Skiing conditions are excellent in many resorts.

Lineker reward
Gary Lineker, the England captain, was named as the winner of an individual fair play award from Fifa.

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Birmingham Six hearing may be held in new year

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE Court of Appeal yesterday set the provisional timetable for a fresh hearing of the Birmingham Six case for early next year amid defence claims of new, previously hidden, evidence and calls for the legal machinery to move into a higher gear.

At the end of a two-hour preliminary hearing before Lord Justice Lloyd and Lord Justice Farquharson, there was anger from supporters of the Six that Allan Green, QC, the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), had not abandoned the Crown case.

Afterwards, solicitors for the six Irishmen, convicted in 1975 for the IRA bombing of

two public houses in which 21 people died, could not comment on whether they might apply for bail. The six men, Richard McKinnon, Patrick Hill, Billy Power, Johnny Walker, Gerry Hunter, and Hugh Callaghan, were not present at the hearing.

Graham Boal, senior Treasury counsel, opened the hearing and told the court that enquiries by a Devon and Cornwall team may be finished by the end of January. Investigations were continuing into questions raised by tests on police documents for evidence of alterations. The DPP, he said, remained set on a full hearing and the in-

vestigation had broadened out. Resisting defence counsel calls for an early or immediate hearing, Mr Boal said it would be wrong to start the appeal and find more material coming forward.

Lord Justice Lloyd agreed, saying a balance had to be struck between the need to expedite the appeal and for the decision of the court to be based on all the material available once the police enquiry was complete. The court would hope to sit in late February for a full hearing.

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Junior doctors cautious over formula on hours

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

DOCTORS' leaders yesterday signed a historic agreement with Virginia Bottomley, the health minister, to move towards a 72-hour working week for junior doctors.

The new formula should pave the way for a shake-up in working patterns for juniors, with no doctors working more than 12 hours at one stretch. However, Dr Stephen Hunter, chairman of the junior doctors' staff committee, issued a warning that the initiative could become "cosmetic" unless it was matched with resources annually.

Mrs Bottomley confirmed that 200 more consultants and 50 new staff grade posts would be funded next year in Eng-

land at a cost of £12.2m to allow more flexible shift working. A further £1.37m will be allocated in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

However, she refused to put a time limit on when the reductions in hours should be achieved and would not commit the government to further spending in future years.

The British Medical Association hailed the agreement as a "major breakthrough".

Young doctors have been working an average 90 hour week, with some on duty for more than 120 hours, sometimes for continuous stretches of up to 80 hours.

80-hour shifts, page 6

Spain's model queen in need of a miracle

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS REPORTER

JEWS and Muslims last night called for the proposed beatification of Queen Isabella, the 15th century Spanish monarch who launched Columbus on his expedition to the New World, to be dropped.

Leaders of the Jewish and Roman Catholic community in Britain last night wrote to the Vatican to express concern. Meanwhile, a British Muslim described Queen Isabella as "more of a demon than a saint".

The Vatican is examining a proposal to beatify the Queen, who signed the edict expelling Jews and Muslims from Spain in 1492 and during whose reign many who refused to convert to Catholicism were subjected to the horrors of the Inquisition. Thousands were tortured and burned at the stake for their beliefs.

Yet in Spain, pamphlets have been circulating, presenting her as "a model for adolescents, women, mothers and heads of government".

Isabella and her councillors made history by their approval and sponsorship of the Columbus expedition to discover a new route to the Indies. The New World found as a result was, with papal confirmation, annexed to the crown of Castile in accordance with existing practice, offering unparalleled opportunities for the spread of Christianity.

She was proficient in Latin and imperious in dealing with the Pope. One of the achievements of her last decade was the success with which the Catholic kings extended their authority thus giving the crown control over vast property and patronage.

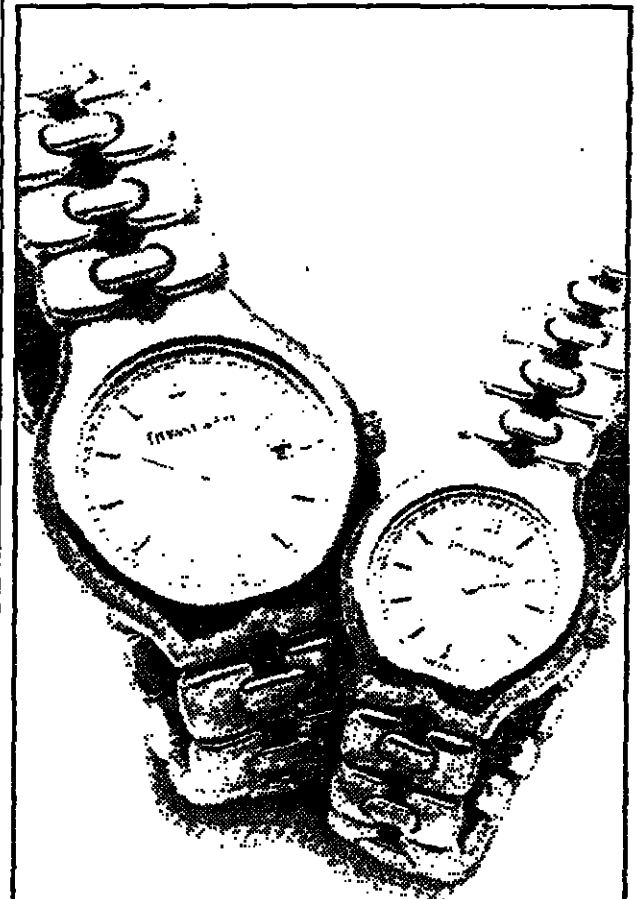
Before the queen, known in Spanish as

Isabel la Catolica, can become blessed, through beatification, she has to be declared venerable. This requires proof of holiness. A miracle is still a prerequisite for beatification: Spaniards supporting the cause are praying to the 16th century queen in the hope of some such miracle. A further miracle would be needed to proceed to canonisation.

The proposal is being promoted by a Spanish Claretian priest, Father Anastasio Gutierrez, and a committee of clerics and laymen is working in Valladolid, the site of her birth, to promote her beatification and ultimate sanctification. A spokesman for the Archdiocese of Valladolid, said: "Our opinion of the proposal could not be more favourable." Cardinals and senior Catholics are backing the cause.

Many feel beatification would enhance

Continued on page 20, col 5



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training is the recovery phase" following periods of severe exertion.

Evidence kept from Birmingham Six lawyers, court told

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

SCIENTIFIC evidence on tests for traces of explosives that might have altered the course of the Birmingham Six case has been hidden from the men's defence counsel for 16 years, the Court of Appeal was told yesterday.

The evidence was available for an appeal in 1987 but never disclosed by the Crown. Michael Mansfield, QC, appearing for five of the Irishmen at a pre-appeal sitting, told the judges that it was outrageous that the information had not been available.

The evidence, disclosed two weeks ago by the Director of Public Prosecutions, concerns tests carried out on five of the men after they were taken off a ferry to Belfast hours after the IRA bombing of two Birmingham public houses in November 1974.

Dr Frank Skuse, a Home Office scientist, carried out a procedure known as the Griess test to establish whether the men had handled nitro-glycerine. The test, on swabs taken from their hands, showed traces of the explosive substance on two of the men.

Dr Skuse and the prosecution have always denied that

positive results could have been produced by harmless substances, such as nitro-cellulose on playing cards. Yesterday, Mr Mansfield said that the DPP had disclosed that two other scientists from Dr Skuse's laboratory had been called out on the same night to test passengers on another ferry. Two passengers were found to be positive, and the result attributed to adhesive tape.

Mr Mansfield said that statements about the tests were taken two or three weeks before the 1987 appeal. "In other words, the Crown had this information all through the appeal and it was never revealed."

He raised the evidence as he argued for greater access to material gathered by the Devon and Cornwall police team investigating the case, or a early hearing of the appeal because "the central chapters of the prosecution, based on confessions and scientific tests, were now destroyed."

The DPP has also provided a report by five scientists on the tests carried out by Dr Skuse and a colleague in 1974. Yesterday Mr Mansfield

quoted from the report's conclusion that evidence of nitro-glycerine traces could not now be considered to be proof beyond reasonable doubt.

As far as the confessions were concerned, Mr Mansfield said, research using a technique to discover alterations to documents raised questions over notes of an interview with Richard McKenny. This had led the home secretary to send the case back to the court in August.

McKenny denied that the interview had taken place and Mr Mansfield said that evidence now suggested that the three officers involved had lied. The officers had been interviewed and, according to a letter from the Home Office to the Court of Appeal, provided "unsatisfactory explanations".

The DPP had had six months to consider the ramifications, Mr Mansfield said. "The interview process and conduct of this investigation was looked at by the original trial as one wall, and if any brick in that wall was to be removed then the confessions should not stand."

Mr Mansfield made his appeal for prompt action during a two-hour hearing in which the court was told by Graham Boal, counsel for the DPP, that the Devon and Cornwall police enquiry into the case will not finish until the end of January and a full hearing could start at the end of February.

● The Griess test was named after a chemist who created a simple and allegedly foolproof method of discovering whether a subject had handled nitro-glycerine using a chemical known as Griess's reagent. The test, now largely abandoned, was in use in 1974 as a field test.

A scientist would wipe a suspect's hands with a swab impregnated with ether. The contents would be squeezed out, more ether added, and the solution divided between three bowls. The first two bowls would have the reagent, and the reagent and caustic soda added. For a positive result one would remain clear and the other would turn pink. The contents of the third bowl would undergo more sophisticated checks in a laboratory. According to Dr Skuse, the tests he did were 99% evidence of nitro-glycerine and there was only one other substance, also an explosive, which could also produce a positive result.

Leading article, page 13



Brenda Power, daughter of Billy Power, one of the Birmingham Six, with his granddaughter after the hearing

Mental patients 'walking streets'

By DAVID YOUNG

MANY mentally disturbed people were left to wander homeless in London because of the closure of long-stay mental hospitals as part of the government's care in the community policy, a consultant psychiatrist said yesterday.

Dr Malcolm Weller, chairman of Care of the Neglected: Combining Education, Rehabilitation and Nursing, told a conference of concerned groups that the closures left a "tremendous short-fall" in provision for the mentally ill. About 100,000 long-stay patients were discharged as part of the policy, with 17 long-stay mental hospitals closing and 36 more facing closure.

Dr Harry Jacobs, chairman of the Society of Clinical Psychiatrists, said: "To let people who are likely to kill themselves or others just wander about by removing hospitals is tragically wrong." It was important that some long-stay hospitals should stay open indefinitely for seriously disturbed and dangerous patients.

Sonia Sutcliffe 'spoke of noble Hitler aims'

By ROBIN YOUNG

SONIA Sutcliffe, the wife of the Peter Sutcliffe the Yorkshire Ripper, said that Hitler had noble motives, that the Nazis' medical experiments on mothers and babies were valid, and described the Jews as "an intruder race", it was claimed in the High Court yesterday.

Barbara Jones, chief reporter of *The Mail on Sunday*, told Mr Justice Drake and the jury in the libel action Mrs Sutcliffe has brought against the *News of the World* that she and Mrs

Sutcliffe had a "very violent" row over Hitler and the Nazis during a holiday they took to Greece together in 1988.

Miss Jones has been named as a third party by the *News of the World* in the trial. Mrs Sutcliffe is suing over an article alleging that she had an affair in Greece with a travel company director, George Papadimitriou, and had kept her marriage to the Yorkshire Ripper a secret from him.

Miss Jones said: "I began to realise that if she didn't want to call Hitler evil there was perhaps some kind of

analogy there with her husband. I asked her if she saw some comparison between Hitler and her husband. She said other people had suggested this."

Miss Jones continued: "I then got this astonishing lecture about how Hitler's motives were noble. He wanted to make his country, his race, the most dominant in the world and that was OK, that was perfectly acceptable."

"It was unfortunate it had ended the way it had, but the Jews had been an intruder race and therefore one could understand his hatred of them. I

asked her then if it was right for him to carry out experiments on mothers and babies and she said it was all in the cause of medical research and therefore it was a valid thing for him to do."

Miss Jones claimed that in August 1988 Mrs Sutcliffe asked her to pay £25,000 which she was expecting in settlement of a copyright claim against the *Yorkshire Post*, into her account because "she did not want the social security people to know about it".

The hearing continues today.

Hyde Park blast link 'not proved'

THE man alleged to have made the IRA bomb that killed four members of the Household Cavalry in Hyde Park in 1982 asked the Court of Appeal yesterday for leave to appeal against his conviction and sentence.

Richard Ferguson, QC, told Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, and two appeal court judges that there was no evidence to link Gilbert McNamee, a physics graduate, to the blast. McNamee, serving 25 years in Parkhurst, was convicted at the Central Criminal Court in October 1987 of conspiring to cause explosions likely to endanger life between January 1982 and 1984.

Yesterday Mr Ferguson told the appeal judges that the prosecution had failed to prove any evidential link between McNamee, aged 30, and the explosion at Hyde Park. Mr Ferguson said that the only basis for arguing that there was a connection was that McNamee's fingerprints had allegedly been found on bomb-making equipment at a cache in Northamptonshire, and that a circuit board in the

cache was said to have matched fragments of one examined after the Hyde Park bombing.

He also submitted that Mr Justice McCowan had summed up the prosecution case "in terms tantamount almost to a direction to convict and a suborning of the independent judgment of the jury", and added that the judge had wrongly directed the jury on several occasions.

The case continues today.



McNamee: serving 25 years in Parkhurst

Drug trial girl to be sentenced

From NEIL KELLY IN BANGKOK

THE criminal court in Bangkok is to sentence Karen Smith, aged 19, of Solihull, West Midlands, on Thursday for attempting to smuggle 26kg of heroin out of Thailand. Miss Smith, whose trial ended yesterday, had pleaded guilty.

The chief judge said that Miss Smith's youth would be taken into account when deciding her sentence.

Her co-defendant, Patricia Cahill, aged 17, of Birmingham, is being tried separately in the juvenile court. She has pleaded not guilty. Her trial will resume on Thursday.

During Miss Smith's trial, the chief police witness said Miss Cahill knew more about the organisation and details of their trip to Thailand than Miss Smith. The two girls were arrested in Bangkok on July 18 as they were about to board a flight for Amsterdam.

Angels of the arts are honoured

By WILLIAM CASE

THE 1990 Association of Business Sponsorship of the Arts/Daily Telegraph awards for the best commercial fairy godparents of the arts were presented yesterday by the Duchess of York at the Royal National Theatre.

For the first time in 13 years of the awards, created to recognise the ten most outstanding support roles played by business sponsors to the arts, no award was made in the corporate programme category. Pamela, Lady Harlech, chairman of the judges, said that the competition for this category was not adequate to choose a winner.

The message to companies who subsidise the arts with £30 million a year, from Sir Simon Hornby, ABSA's chairman, was that at a time of economic uncertainty companies had an increased responsibility to the arts, especially at a local level, since the arts were integral to the fabric of society.

This year's business winners range from the arts and urban regeneration award to English Estates, to the British art overseas award, won by Rank Xerox for sponsoring the English National Opera's tour of Verdi's *Macbeth*, Handel's and Britten's *The Turn of the Screw* to Russia.

In addition to the ten business awards and the ABSA/BP Award for effective use of sponsorship money, won by Scottish Chamber Orchestra, the *Daily Telegraph* Award for the most inspiring individual sponsorship contribution went to Jane Glover, as conductor and artistic director of the London Mozart Players, sponsored by Nestlé.

The other business award winners were: United Baltic Corporation, Digital Equipment Company, Television South West, London Electricity, 3i Group, Nestlé, British Telecom, TVS Television, and Regalian Properties.

Crufts howler upsets dogs

By JOHN YOUNG

PEDIGREE dogs were upset and their owners watched disapprovingly as a woman and her daughter fought at Crufts dog show, the height of the canine social season, a Kennel Club disciplinary hearing was told yesterday.

The women swore, pulled each other's hair and rolled about on the floor for several minutes before the fracas was broken up, the hearing was told.

Martin Sinnatt, the club's secretary, said that the fight between Pat McLaren and her daughter Sonia was unacceptable behaviour which was prejudicial to the interests of the canine world.

It had also upset the dogs and some foreign visitors, he told the club's adjudicators. "It appears to have been a

fracas of a purely personal nature, but I am sure you will agree that the Kennel Club's own show is hardly a suitable location for such behaviour," Mr Sinnatt said.

The brawl was said to have taken place near the miniature pinscher ring on February 8. Brenda Cody, of Preston, Lancashire, who witnessed the incident involving the two women, described it as a ladies' fight.

Another witness to the brawl, Kim Harvey, of Sandwich, Kent, said that she had stepped in to help to keep Mrs McLaren and her daughter apart.

The fight began, she told the hearing, when Mrs McLaren slapped her daughter on the cheek because she

was behaving abusively. Mrs McLaren, of Morden, south London, who resigned from the Miniature Pinscher Club before the hearing, was fined £50 and disqualified from taking part in Kennel Club events for six months, after apologising for the altercation. She was also warned and censured for her behaviour.

Mrs McLaren told the hearing that it had been the result of a personal dispute. "We had a few drinks at Crufts, and it all got a bit out of hand."

It had been a family disagreement about money, which was over in a flash, she added. "It will never happen again, because I won't take her to a dog show again."

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'Cunning and persistent' blackmailer gets 17 years

By BILL FROST

A FORMER detective was sentenced yesterday to 17 years' imprisonment for his £3.75 million blackmail plot against Heinz and Pedigree Petfoods.

Rodney Whitechelo, aged 43, of Hornchurch, Essex, had threatened to murder babies and ruin companies unless he was paid large amounts of money. Judge Nina Lowry described him as "cunning and persistent".

She said that Whitechelo's poisoning plot was aimed at the most vulnerable section of the community, and told him: "You expected to strike terror into the lives of members of the public and force Heinz to pay up. Blackmail on such a scale as this inevitably affects large sections of the community, causing grave anxiety and fear and untold economic loss for food manufacturing companies."

On Saturday, Whitechelo was convicted of six counts of blackmail, two of contaminating tins of Pedigree Chum dog food, two of attempting to obtain property by deception from Heinz and one of threatening to kill Heinz customers. Whitechelo, who denied all 17 charges, was cleared on four counts of contaminating baby food with caustic soda and razor blades and a tin of Heinz Weightwatcher soup with caustic soda, with intent to do grievous bodily harm.

The court was told that Whitechelo had tried to make Heinz and Pedigree Petfoods

pay £3.75 million into a series of building society accounts set up under false names. He was caught drawing money from a building society cash-dispenser.

The judge said that the companies Whitechelo had selected as his victims stood firm and co-operated with the police. She jailed Whitechelo for 13 years on each of the blackmail charges, five years on each of two charges of contaminating Chum, and six years for threatening to kill Heinz customers. Those sentences will run concurrently with each other, but consecutively with the four years imposed for trying to obtain property by deception, making a total of 17 years.

The judge made no order on compensation after hearing that the former detective had virtually no assets.



He's the one with more hair: not only Sir George Solti but also Dudley Moore will be sorting out crotchets from crescendos in a series on the history of the symphony orchestra on Channel 4 in the new year. The eight-part half-hour series, *Orchestra*, will go out on Sunday nights

Tough reputation of a rare woman judge

By PAUL WILKINSON AND NICHOLAS WATT

JUDGE Nina Lowry has a reputation for not mincing her words in court and for handing out tough sentences. Helena Kennedy, a leading woman barrister, said of Judge Lowry yesterday: "She feels comfortable with her role. She can be compassionate and lenient, but when it is necessary, she will be tough."

Judge Lowry won praise

from the women's rights lobby three years ago when she jailed a rapist for 16 years, 11 days after the public outcry at the allegedly soft sentences imposed by another judge on men responsible for the Ealing vicarage rape case.

She is helpful and sympathetic to rape victims giving evidence, and explains to the jury the trauma that the women are having to relive, and makes sure that they are comfortable

and have breaks.

She made history in 1981 with her second husband, Judge Richard Lowry, when they became the first married couple to sit as judges at the same court of session. She remains the only woman judge at the Central Criminal Court and is noted by barristers for a no-nonsense approach to the running of her court.

Judge Lowry is quick to

curb counsel if she believes that they are overstepping the mark. Once, when a barrister began "With all due respect, my lady...", she interrupted, saying: "Please don't say that when you mean exactly the opposite."

Now aged 65, she has been a judge since 1976. A former pupil of Bedford High School, she was called to the Bar in her early twenties in 1948 after gaining a law degree at

Birmingham university. She practised as a criminal lawyer on the south-eastern circuit and in London, until, in 1967, she was appointed a stipendiary magistrate, a post she held until she became a judge.

In 1975, she was made a member of the Criminal Law Revision Committee.

Judge Lowry has a son and a daughter from her first marriage to the barrister and former Conservative MP, Sir Edward Gardner, QC, and a second daughter from her present marriage to Richard Lowry, who also sits at the Central Criminal Court.



Judge Nina Lowry: noted for no-nonsense approach

Myths on Aids still common

By KERRY GILL

MORE than a third of people interviewed in a survey believed they could catch the Aids virus by giving blood. The study, carried out in Glasgow, mirrored others in Britain, France and the United States.

A similar proportion of people would not visit a dentist who had treated someone infected with HIV or thought to suffer from Aids, even though there were no recorded cases in the UK of anyone contracting Aids through dental treatment.

The latest health department figures show that Aids claimed 81 lives in the UK last month, bringing the total of deaths since the start of the epidemic to 2,212. Reported cases went up to 3,988.

The survey, carried out for the Greater Glasgow Health Board, also showed that as many as 99 per cent knew that injecting drugs with dirty needles was risky and 83 per cent thought that heterosexual intercourse carried a risk of Aids.

Smoking parents 'influence children'

Children are more likely to start smoking if their parents smoke, according to an Office of Population Censuses and Surveys report, which also found that girls aged 12-14 were most susceptible.

The survey, carried out in three stages from 1986 to 1988, found that most children did not want to be smokers but that their expectations were unrealistically optimistic. A single, distinct event seldom prompted a child to start the habit and their smoking behaviour was much more erratic than that of an adult.

There is no steady progression from smoking occasionally to smoking regularly to increasing consumption, the survey says.

MoD damages

Martin McGuinness, vice-president of Sinn Féin, was awarded £1,000 damages against the defence ministry over a claim for unlawful arrest, false imprisonment and minor assault arising from an incident when he was stopped at an army vehicle checkpoint in Londonderry in August 1987.

Bristow fined

Eric Bristow, aged 33, the former world darts champion, and Trevor Band, aged 29, his friend and driver, both of Stoke-on-Trent, were each fined £50 by Bow Street magistrates' court yesterday after admitting being drunk and disorderly after leaving a London nightclub in October.

Chess break

Gary Kasparov, the defending world chess champion, took his last permitted time out in the world championship against the world champion, Anatoly Karpov, yesterday. There are four games left and he needs just one point to confirm the retention of his title.

Daniel Johnson, page 12

Late collection

The Post Office began an investigation yesterday after three young boys found recently dumped bundles of letters and postcards strewn over rocks in Newlyn harbour, Cornwall. More than 200 letters, some marked 1987 and containing cheques and bank cards, were recovered.

Trouble brewing

Darren Kenyon, aged 33, was making a cup of tea on his 40ft boat in Grimsby docks yesterday when the gas stove exploded, throwing him overboard and sinking the boat.

BEWARE OF CHEAP LIMITATIONS

Some cheaper compacts

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MINOLTA

British Psychological Society

Prisoners to pop music at eight weeks' gestation

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

BABIES in the womb can hear sounds and even learn to recognise tunes, the British Psychological Society will be told today.

Research at Queen's university and the Royal Maternity hospital in Belfast has shown that unborn babies are able to hear and respond to sounds at as early as eight to nine weeks of gestation, even though the auditory system is not developed at that stage.

The results of the research will be outlined to psychologists attending the second day of a two-day meeting of the society at City univer-

sity, London. Peter Hepper, of the psychology department at Queen's university, has no doubt that the fetus is capable of detecting the sounds and not simply the vibrations.

His team found that one baby did not respond to sound, although it did respond to light, which can penetrate the womb in a darkened room. When it was born, that baby turned out to be deaf.

Dr Hepper and his co-workers are convinced that the babies recognise the sounds because of how they respond to particular tunes.

Dr Hepper has already reported that infants whose mothers spent a lot of time during pregnancy watching soap operas can be calmed down by the programmes' theme tunes.

The studies at Belfast have been made possible by the sensitivity of modern ultrasound diagnostic equipment. That enables the researchers to identify reactions subtle as movements of the eye, as the baby attempts to locate the sources of the sounds. It also enables them to detect abnormalities of development from small divergences from the normal response.

The studies to be reported today by Dr Hepper are part of a research programme in Belfast that aims to identify the range of skills that babies can acquire in the womb, and whether stimulating them with particular sounds has any lasting effect on their development.

□ In a session on female sexual behaviour, the society will today be told the results of a series of studies on sexual desire, the menopause, and what determines sexual preferences.

Myra Hunter, a chartered psychologist from London, will report that sexual desire during and after the menopause is more likely to be determined by psychological and social factors rather than by hormonal changes. What matters, she believes, is a woman's attitude towards the menopause rather than any physical changes.

Christine Dancy, of the polytechnic of east London, will report on a study of the reasons for sexual preference among women. Taking a group of lesbian and heterosexual women, she measured hormone levels and studied family background and personality type.

She found, however, that none of the variables she measured could distinguish lesbian from heterosexual predisposition. Sexual preference therefore remained a mystery.

Lunchtime drink can be deadly

THE lunchtime drink could be more dangerous than one in the evening, research at Loughborough university's human sciences department has shown (Nigel Hawkes writes).

Jim Horne, director of the sleep research laboratory at the university, will tell delegates at the society's conference in London that most drivers should not drink at all at lunchtime, and that the legal alcohol limit is no guide to safe driving.

Professor Horne investigated the way in which alcohol affects the tendency to feel sleepy in the early afternoon, compared with the feeling of alertness in early evening. Eight women had two or four units of alcohol with a snack, either at 1pm or at 6.30pm [one unit is equal to a glass of wine, half a pint of beer, or a single measure of spirits]. They were then tested for an hour to check their vigilance.

The results showed that, if the drinks were taken at lunchtime rather than in the evening, the participants were more sleepy and had a reduced response time for tasks requiring vigilance.

Two groups of 12 women were then given four units of alcohol or a harmless drink in a double-blind trial in which subject and experimenter were kept in ignorance to eliminate unconscious bias. As before, the tests were carried out at lunchtime or early evening.

The subjects, all within the legal alcohol limit for driving, then had 40 minutes of monotonous motorway driving while their performance was monitored. Those who had drunk alcohol performed much worse in the tests, especially in the early afternoon. The study confirms that alcohol, even in moderation, can combine with the post lunchtime "slump" to have marked effects on skills such as driving.

In a separate paper, Geoff Lowe, of Hull university, suggested that public attitudes towards drinking drivers were becoming tougher, but that the response to drink-driving depended on whether the respondents had themselves been drinking. After a few drinks, he found, people became more sympathetic to drivers involved in accidents.

throwing elbow as a "mess".

training is the recovery phase."

following periods of severe exercise

مكتبة من الأصل



Stepfather is jailed for manslaughter of girl aged 2

A STEPFATHER was jailed for seven years yesterday for the manslaughter of a girl aged two, who died from a blow to her stomach.

Neil Frost treated Joanna worse than a dead dog, Norwich crown court was told. Although neighbours and relatives repeatedly warned social workers that she was a battered child, nothing was done to protect her, it was alleged. Her injuries were twice examined by doctors, but she was allowed to return home.

Frost, aged 24, lived with his wife Wendy, aged 22, the child's mother, in Beyton, Suffolk, where Joanna died in November last year. Frost married Wendy when she was five months pregnant by another man. He told a social worker that he hated Joanna because she was not his daughter. Frost denied murder and was

cleared by the jury, but was convicted of cruelty and manslaughter. Wendy Frost was cleared of murder on the direction of Mr Justice Allott. Jailing Neil Frost, he said: "I construe from the verdicts that Joanna was indeed a battered child, battered and brutalised by you." David Harrison, a Home Office pathologist, earlier described how Joanna had died from a deliberate and crushing blow to her stomach, which split her liver and spleen.

In the months before her death Joanna was twice taken to hospital for check-ups after neighbours reported abuse. Doctors concluded that her bruises were accidental and Frost claimed that she had been injured when she fell from a garden gate. However, his sister's fiancé, Arthur Phillips, aged 44, told the jury: "He treated her worse than I would have treated a dead dog." He said that he had made more than a dozen complaints to social workers about Joanna, but they had accepted the Frost's claims.

Suffolk county council social services department said last night that this was not a case where support to the family was lacking. "The considered judgment of all concerned was that Joanna's needs could best be met by keeping the family together. Following Joanna's death the Suffolk area child protection committee commissioned a review headed by an independent chairperson. The review team concluded this tragic death could not have reasonably been predicted."

● Social workers investigating allegations of satanic and ritual abuse of children were obsessed with the belief that they had uncovered a satanic abuse group, a senior judge said yesterday.

Mr Justice Hollings said at the end of an 11-week wardship hearing at the High Court in Manchester involving 13 children that there was a great deal of fantasy in the children's stories because of the way they were questioned. Manchester city council had applied for care orders in all cases but the judge ruled that five should stay in care and the others be returned home.

Inquest told of 'mass hooliganism'

A GATEMAN at Hillsborough stadium described to a Sheffield inquest yesterday the "mass hooliganism" of fans who tried to smash their way into the ground. Robert Cobb said the pressure on gate A at Leppings Lane turnstile was so great that the metal bent inwards.

Police, mounted and on foot, failed to stop supporters joining those outside the entrance before last year's FA Cup semi-final, at which 95 fans died. Mr Cobb said ticketless fans waved £10 and £20 notes to try to gain entrance, and others threatened to smash down the gate unless it was opened. "The intention was to get into the ground, no matter what."

The police cordon was powerless to prevent the fans rushing toward the turnstiles, the inquest was told. Sergeant Malcolm France said: "There were people going under the bellies of police horses and rushing past."

The hearing continues today.

Relief at last from 80-hour shifts

The gruelling shifts worked by junior doctors could soon be an unpleasant memory, but the success of yesterday's agreement on working patterns depends entirely on the attitudes of their bosses. Jill Sherman reports

SIMON Bolan, unshaven and exhausted, was yesterday struggling to complete an 80-hour continuous shift at Charing Cross hospital, west London.

He had been on duty since 9am on Friday and was hoping to clock off finally at 5.30 yesterday afternoon. Although Dr Bolan, a senior house officer, managed to catnap for a few hours on each of the three nights he was on call, he was feeling decidedly shaky after a hectic weekend looking after cancer and leukaemia patients.

"I am shattered," he said yesterday morning. "A new leukaemia patient was admitted over the weekend, and a melanoma patient on the oncology ward was taking part in a new trial. I have had to make up several chemotherapy doses and look after 30 people on the ward."

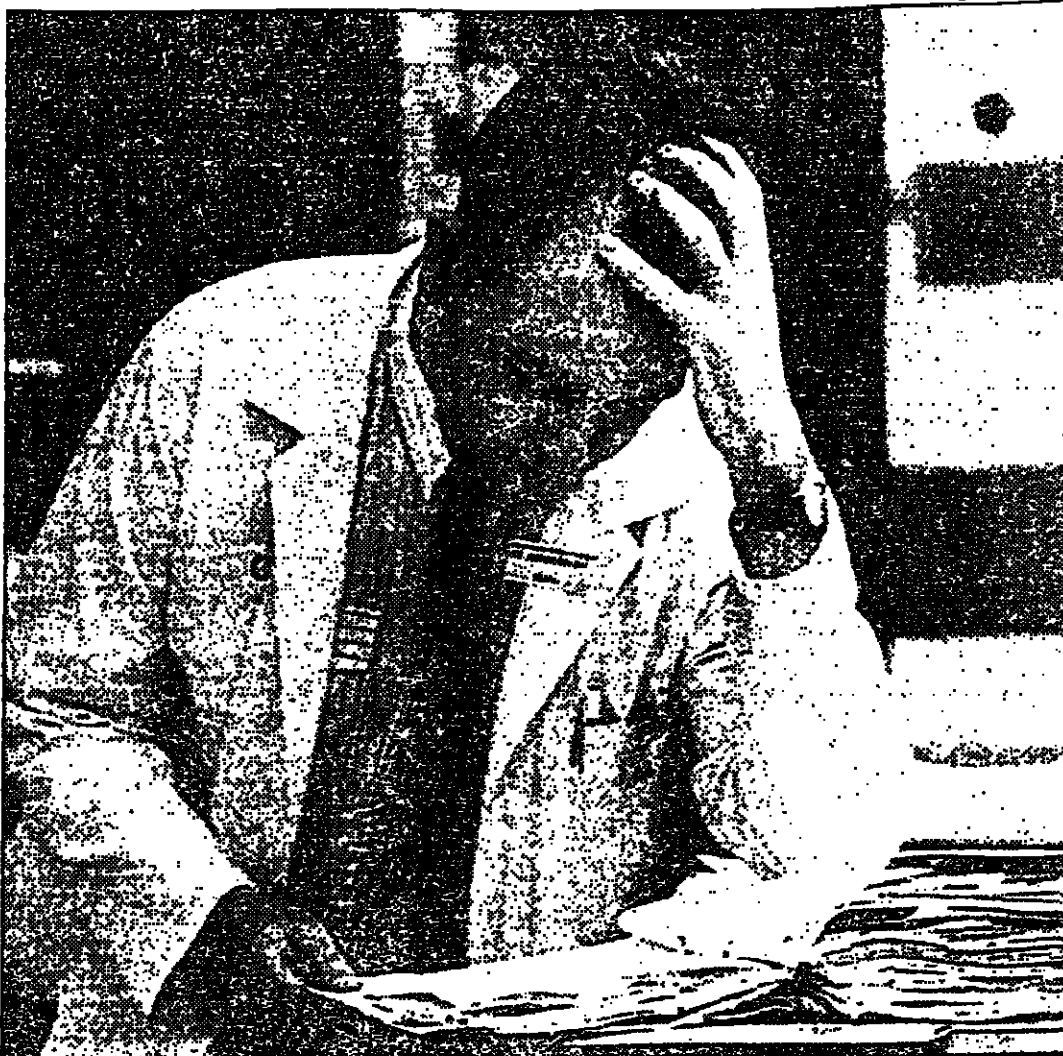
Many of the patients were critically ill and needed close supervision, yet Dr Bolan, aged 27, was the only doctor present for the whole weekend. The consultant who was on call came in briefly to admit the new patient, as did a senior registrar.

Dr Bolan, who works over 100 hours a week, said he was lucky to get 16 hours sleep, albeit interrupted, in the three nights. Every fourth weekend he works an 80-hour shift, which he admits could be dangerous to patients. "It makes you very tired and because of that you tend to make short cuts. You also risk mistakes when making up doses of chemotherapy, both to yourself - if the needle slips - and to the patient."

Although he welcomed the agreement reached with ministers yesterday, he was sceptical about whether it would work. The new formula, which follows 20 years of campaigning by juniors, should pave the way for revolutionary new working patterns. All juniors, who now work an average 90-hour week, will transfer to a system of split shift working. Doctors will work more intensively, but for shorter periods - a maximum of ten to 12 hours, with 48 hours off every fortnight.

Many jobs they do now, filing, taking blood and administering intravenous drugs, will be done instead by ward clerks, technicians and nurses. "It depends on resources and consultants' attitudes," Dr Bolan said. "Consultants will obviously be busier and may have more responsibility to ensure continuity of care. It will go against the grain because they have done all these hours before as part of their training," he added. "I agree that you have got to get experience but working 80 hours at a stretch is a bit of an inhumane way of getting it."

Consultants' reactionary attitudes to clinical practice could



Dr Bolan, nearing the end of his 80-hour shift yesterday, was not optimistic about the agreement

frustrate a potentially historic breakthrough in reducing hours, juniors say. Ministers have refused to accept juniors' demands for a statutory 72-hour week, so young doctors will have to rely entirely on the co-operation of their bosses, both doctors and managers, to enable them to clock off after a ten- or 12-hour shift.

Consultants will have to ensure continuous care by allowing for an adequate overlap in shift patterns. They will also have to supervise cross cover by juniors for a variety of specialties. The consultant will no longer be able to rely on his cosy "firm" of doctors knowing exactly how he likes things done. "Consultants become very set in their ways. They like their teams. Juniors who don't work for them don't know their regimes," Dr Bolan said.

Under the new agreement, task forces will be set up by regional health authorities to match re-

sources to areas where juniors work longest. New posts will only be approved if managers and consultants produce plans on how hours can be cut.

Last month a survey conducted by the British Medical Association showed that one in two doctors would take industrial action in support of shorter hours. Dr Stephen Hunter, chairman of the junior staff committee, has said that if the agreement fails, industrial action would be reconsidered.

The government is more optimistic about its latest initiative than the group it is trying to appease. John Major's caring bandwagon, full of cash for haemophiliacs and the homeless, has now been topped up with money for junior doctors. Whether that will prove to be more than a political gimmick will largely depend on the medical profession itself.

Under the new agreement, task forces will be set up by regional health authorities to match re-

Farmers shun set aside land scheme

By MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

FARMERS are losing interest in the government's set-aside scheme, which pays growers of cereals and other crops up to £90 an acre kept out of production for five years provided at least 20 per cent of arable land is included.

This year, 911 farmers applied for payments to leave 75,913 acres untillied, according to agriculture ministry figures released yesterday. That compares with 1,230 farmers and 120,580 acres last year and 1,653 farmers and 128,418 acres in 1988, when the scheme began. As farmers enter the scheme, the cost of running it, half of which is met by the EC budget, rises. Expenditure rose from £11 million in 1988 to £25 million last year and is expected to reach £32 million this year.

The big drop in the number of new entrants this year occurred in spite of a £10 an acre increase in the highest payment on offer, in return for which farmers are required to take extra measures to enhance the appearance of set-aside land, including mowing the grass cover on fallow land at least twice a year instead of only once under previous rules, a response to criticism that much set-aside land looks unkempt. They must also protect and maintain stone walls, traditional buildings, grassland, moorland and heath.

Most farmers (74 per cent) this year followed the pattern of previous years in applying to leave set-aside land fallow, but 5.4 per cent went for a new option that permits limited grazing of fallow land by deer and goats. Only 3.3 per cent chose to plant trees compared with 17.3 per cent who applied for non-agricultural uses.

That relatively few cereals farmers applied for set-aside this year arguably indicates that they are not in quite such dire straits as they claim. If large numbers were as close to going broke as is often said, the set-aside payments would look more attractive. Designed as a measure to curb surplus production, set-aside has had a generally bad press, being depicted as a scheme for paying farmers for doing nothing.

Environmentalists are divided over the scheme's value, some arguing that it encourages more intensive cultivation of land left in production, while others believe wildlife has benefited.

NINA RICCI
PARIS



L'Air du Temps

Treason law must be revised, Baker tells MPs

A COMPLETE revision of the law of treason and its penalties was called for by Kenneth Baker yesterday when he rejected demands for the reintroduction of capital punishment for murder.

The home secretary said it would be inappropriate to support an attempt to remove the death penalty for treason and piracy with violence while the law on treason was being examined.

Speaking at the committee stage of the Criminal Justice bill, he said that to substitute life imprisonment for the offences would give the erroneous impression that, change apart, Parliament was content with the law.

He told MPs that he had discussed the matter with the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, who considered it appropriate that the Law Commission should examine the issue in its work on the codification of the criminal law.

He said: "It would be much more sensible to leave the penalty as it is until the wider consideration of the law of treason is completed."

Mr Baker argued against backbench efforts to bring back the death penalty for the murder of a police officer or prison officer.

DEATH PENALTY

for terrorist murder, or for murder with the Court of Appeal deciding whether the sentence should be commuted to life imprisonment.

He acknowledged that the number of homicides had increased, and promised: "I shall continue my predecessor's policy of requiring those responsible for the worst categories of murder, including those who kill police officers, to serve at least 20 years in prison."

He added: "I must emphasise that 20 years is the minimum. Many murderers will serve longer. For some, life will mean life."

The home secretary cast doubt on the deterrent value of capital punishment and told MPs not to underestimate the effect and severity of a long prison sentence. All persons were grim, he said.

On capital punishment for terrorists, he said that those prepared to starve themselves to death were not likely to be deterred by the gallows.

He raised the likelihood of terrorist martyrs, of young people being forced to commit crimes and of hostages being taken in the run-up to executions being carried out. The government would never yield to that sort of pressure.

"One has to recognise that the result of introducing the death penalty may be that more innocent lives would be placed at risk," he said.

However, his real objection for singling out terrorism was that such a move recognised it as a special crime, to be punished in a separate way, when terrorists must be treated as common criminals.

He said that an onerous responsibility would be placed on the Court of Appeal if it should be allowed to say whether a death sentence for murder could be changed to life imprisonment.

Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, took the view that life or death decisions should not be taken by judges whether at the trial or on appeal, but by Parliament.

Under the proposed arrangement, the Court of Appeal would

not have heard the evidence and in some cases would be in a worse position than the trial judge to make the decision.

Mr Baker also spoke of the risk of miscarriages of justice, an issue, he said, that those in favour of the reintroduction of capital punishment must address.

The prospect of an innocent person being hanged by mistake could not be dismissed with a shrug. There must be the possibility of rectifying a mistaken verdict. "Capital punishment denies that redress. There is no appeal from the gallows," he said.

Peter Archer, a former Labour solicitor general, proposed new clauses to abolish the death penalty for treason and piracy.

He knew of no argument that applied to abolishing capital punishment for murder that did not apply to treason and piracy.

Mr Archer said that treason could be a terrible offence, but then so could murder. He did not believe the state would be any safer as a result of retaining the death penalty for treason than individuals would be as a result of keeping it for murder.

If the offence of treason was abolished, members of the royal family and the judiciary would be protected by the ordinary law on murder and other offences.

The substantive law on treason was in need of review, but his new clause was not about the substantive law, but about the penalties.

"We believe this debate is about penalties and the arguments which persuaded the House two years ago and will no doubt be deployed today apply with equal force to the offences of treason and piracy."

Sir Bernard Braine, Conservative MP for Castle Point, said that every day of the week newspapers carried reports of horrific crimes of murder of women and children. The statistics were clear, pointing to a decline in society and an increase in violence. How did he answer that?

Mr Archer said it was true that there were horrific crimes and some MPs had been complaining that the government should do more about it, but this debate was about penalties.

He understood that the last person to be executed for treason was William Joyce, known as Lord Haw-Haw. The last person to be executed for piracy was in the nineteenth century. It could be asked whether it was worthwhile changing the law when it was not likely to be used.

"I believe what the law prescribes about this is a test of a civilisation. If we have the death penalty on the statute book, we shall be virtually the only democracy in Western Europe to do so and shall be resisting the tide of civilisation," he said.

The debate was opened by a former police officer, John Greenway, Conservative MP for Ryedale, who moved a new clause calling for the death penalty for the murder of a police officer on duty.

He said that the Criminal Justice bill contained important measures based on the maxim that the punishment should fit the crime. Many outside the House believed that the punishment of the murderer did not fit the crime he had committed.

Since the House last debated capital punishment two-and-a-half years ago, more than 1,500 people had been killed unlawfully in the United Kingdom and that did not include those who two years ago were blown out of the sky over Lockerbie.

The House would remember, too, the murder of their dear friend Ian Gow. Mr Greenway recalled incidents he had attended during his five years as a member of the Metropolitan police in the



Facing the future: Angela Rumbold, Home Office minister, meeting one of the babies yesterday after opening a day nursery in Croydon, south London, for the children of civil servants

'Hanging lobby' defeated 17 times in 34 years

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Commons has discussed the question of capital punishment 17 times in 34 years, with the bringing-back-hanging brigade on the losing side every time.

Before last night MPs had most recently rejected the idea of restoring the death penalty by successive majorities of 152, 129, 119, 162, 145, 112 and 123. Large intakes of supposedly "Thatcherite" Conservatives after recent elections have done nothing to turn the tide.

Votes in July 1983 saw the majority against capital punishment fall to 81 for the murder of police officers and 116 for terrorist murders, while it rose to 175 for murder in furtherance of theft.

Capital punishment was abolished in Britain in 1969. In April 1973, a bill to restore capital punishment lost by 320 votes to 178. In May that year, capital punishment was abolished in the Northern Ireland Emergency Provisions bill by 253 votes to 90.

In December 1974, a motion by Brian Walden, then a Labour MP, opposing the reintroduction of capital punishment for terrorist offences was approved by 369 votes to 217. In December 1975, a motion that would have reintroduced capital punishment for terrorist offences, introduced by the Tory MP, Ivan Lawrence, was defeated 361-232.

In July 1979, a restoration motion introduced by the Conservative MP, Eileen Griffiths, went down by 362 votes to 243.

In May 1982, a Tory backbench move to introduce a death penalty clause into the Criminal Justice bill that year was defeated 357-195.

Amid the series of votes on penalties for different offences in July 1983, the principle of restoring capital punishment was beaten 357-195.

In April 1987, Sir Ian Percival's proposal for the restoration of hanging for "evil" murders was defeated by 342 votes to 230. On that occasion the cabinet split 10-5 against the death penalty. The five in favour were Margaret Thatcher, Norman Fowler, Nicholas Ridley, George Younger and John Moore, none of whom remains in the

DEATH PENALTY

cabinet today. John Major voted against, as did Kenneth Baker, now the home secretary.

There is growing cynicism among Tory MPs at the staging of capital punishment votes in order to make life easier for home secretaries at Conservative party conferences, the mainspring of the demand for restoration. The normal practice now is to test the principle once in each Parliament and that had already been done with a vote in June 1988, when the motion by the Tory MP, Roger Gale, to reintroduce capital punishment was defeated by 341 votes to 218.

After that vote Conservative proponents of the death penalty were conceding that no statistics or arguments would now persuade the Commons to change its view. Ministers relented because the arrival in the Commons of another criminal justice bill would have enabled backbenchers to raise the question of the death penalty anyway and Lord Waddington, who was then home secretary, promised at this year's Tory conference that another vote would be held.

The amendment brought forward in 1988 introduced a new concept in that it would have allowed juries to recommend that capital punishment should be imposed. It was argued later that some who favoured the principle of capital punishment were against the idea of putting such onus on juries and that it was therefore appropriate for MPs to have the chance to vote again.

Britons should stay clear of Gulf

The Foreign Office repeated yesterday its advice to British citizens in the Gulf region to leave as soon as possible and it advised tourists to avoid the area.

Douglas Hurd, foreign secretary, said in a written reply that Britons living in Bahrain, Qatar, the eastern region of Saudi Arabia and the cities of Riyadh and Tabuk were advised to leave the area well before January 15, the UN deadline for the withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait.

That was a commonsense precaution, he said, and did not imply a worsening of the situation. Tourists should not visit the area, but people who had business in the area should not be deterred. They should register their arrival with the nearest British diplomatic mission.

No extra cash for opera house

The prospect of extra government money for construction work at the Royal Opera House was ruled out by Tim Renton, arts minister.

He told MPs that the development of the Royal Opera House would be funded principally from the proceeds of the development of land and commercial properties given to it by successive governments.

Mark Fisher, the shadow arts minister, said that there were holes in the roof of the Tate Gallery and a huge repair programme to be undertaken. He challenged Mr Renton to commission a national audit of arts buildings so that he would know the size of the task.

Reform bill introduced

As part of his campaign to reform the constitution, Graham Allen, Labour MP for Nottingham North, presented a bill to replace the House of Lords with a directly elected body. Although the bill was given a formal first reading, it has little chance of making further progress.

Riskind pps appointed

Henry Bellingham, Conservative MP for North West Norfolk, has been appointed parliamentary private secretary to Malcolm Rifkind, transport secretary.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Health; prime minister. Atomic Weapons Establishment bill, second reading. Lords (2.30): Gaming (Amendment) bill, third reading. Natural Heritage (Scotland) bill, report.

Restoration favoured by poll majority

OPINION polls have reported most voters to be in favour of restoring capital punishment in recent years (Sheila Gunn writes). A Mori poll carried out in December 1989 and January this year on the death penalty found that 63 per cent believed that it was sometimes justified and 33 per cent thought it was never justified; 4 per cent did not know.

In September last year, a Gallup opinion poll asked adult voters if they thought the death penalty should be introduced for certain types of murder and compared the findings with a 1987 poll.

A total of 74 per cent (66 per cent in 1987) supported the death penalty for the murder of police officers or members of the armed services compared with 21 per cent (29 per cent in 1987), who did not. The death penalty for terrorist murders was supported by 81 per cent (73 per cent in 1987) and for child rapists by 61 per cent (63 per cent in 1987).

A Mori poll in 1987 found that 72 per cent of voters believed that capital punishment should be reintroduced for certain crimes and 25 per cent were against it.

However, when Gallup asked voters last year about the likelihood of the restoration of capital punishment in Britain, 63 per cent said they believed it would not be brought back and only 26 per cent thought it would.



Archer: Treason and piracy death penalty should go

Groups start child labour study

By RICHARD FORD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A CAMPAIGN to discover the extent of child labour in Britain was launched yesterday as figures were released showing that in 1989-90 thirty-seven children suffered severe injuries in industry and agriculture.

The figures from the Health and Safety Executive show that 17 children were involved in major accidents and 20 in serious incidents. Most of those injured in major accidents were working in agriculture; one of the children was aged 10.

Launching a study of child labour in Britain, Chris Pond, chairman of the Low Pay Unit, said that the law regulating the employment of children needed to be updated.

Mr Pond said: "There is increasing concern about child employment and especially the illegal employment of children. Children may represent an easy access to cheap labour for some employers and they are maybe exploited by employers."

The Low Pay Unit and the education department of Birmingham city council will carry out a survey of thirteen secondary and three primary schools in the city to find out how many children are working and at what age, the type of jobs they do, what they are paid, and the number of accidents at work.

Ann Searle, of Birmingham's education department, said that 4,000 children in the city were registered with 800 employers, although she suspected that that figure was only half the number of children working in the city.

The law governing the employment of children dates from 1933, but it is local authorities that are the main regulatory body.

In England and Wales in 1988, there were 22 convictions out of 28 prosecutions of non-industrial undertakings and 7 convictions in 1988-89 among industrial undertakings for the illegal employment of children.

Under the law it is left to local authorities to produce bylaws governing the part-time employment of children.

EMPLOYMENT

istrative organisation needed to operate the bylaws she believed that Birmingham city council's registration of children working covered only "the tip of the iceberg".

She told a press conference at Westminster that, under registration, children were provided with a medical examination and the local authority checked on the child's attendance at school.

Heseltine shocks council leaders

By DOUGLAS BROOM
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Heseltine, the environment secretary, shocked local government leaders yesterday by telling them that they would have to justify their existence in order to survive his fundamental review of the poll tax.

During a 75-minute meeting with the leaders of the local authority associations, Mr Heseltine made clear that his poll tax review would probe every corner of local government structure and functions.

He dismissed Labour demands that he should agree in advance to abolish the poll tax and insisted that capping powers would be retained to curb council spending next year.

He also refused to give details of any short-term measures to ease the problems of the poll tax next year. It emerged later that an announcement of the possible changes would not be made until the new year.

John Chatfield, Conservative chairman of the Association of County Councils, said: "He said to us 'You have got a task in hand to satisfy me, and through me, Parliament, that you are delivering services effectively'."

"Some of the things he had to say were clearly unacceptable to members of the local government



Heseltine: "You will have to convince me"

side", Mr Chatfield added. "He was not talking to us as if he wanted to make us all his best friends."

He said that capping would hit Conservative councils as well as Labour next year unless the rules were changed.

"The capping criteria proposed are so severe that there will be a number of counties that will have to reduce the level of service they provide to their communities", Mr Chatfield said.

"One of those will be Oxfordshire and we had hoped that, as he represents an Oxfordshire

constituency [Henley], he might have been more sympathetic."

Mr Heseltine's tough words and his refusal to lift the threat of capping for next year angered Labour local government leaders who said that he could face all-party resistance if he pressed ahead with his plans.

Mr Heseltine used the meeting to set out some of the options for change that he is considering as part of his review of the poll tax and local government structure.

He told council leaders that he wanted to see a reduction in the number of councillors to speed debates and the appointment of directly elected mayors or chief executives.

Jeremy Beecham, vice-chairman of the Labour-controlled Association of Metropolitan Authorities, said: "If he pursues these plans, he is going to be in conflict not just with the Labour local authorities but with the whole of local government."

"There was not a word in what he said to us about democracy or local accountability. What he is talking about is replacing democratic local government with local administration of services."

The Labour leaders were also angered at Mr Heseltine's refusal to accept their demand that the abolition of the poll tax should be a prerequisite of any review of local government structure and finance.

The secretary of state also

rejected their request for an independent enquiry instead of the civil service review now being carried out under the leadership of Roger Bright, the former head of information at the environment department.

Speaking after the meeting, Mr Beecham accused Mr Heseltine of "refusing an opportunity to take local government out of party politics."

He said the Labour councillors had been "alarmed at the centralist trend of Mr Heseltine's remarks", particularly his opening comment that the level of local government spending should be set by the chancellor.

Asked if, in the light of capping and spending targets, that was not already the case, Mr Beecham said: "The government can set targets, but it is up to local authorities to set their budgets."

However, even the Labour leaders gave grudging approval to Mr Heseltine's offer of a further meeting in the new year and to his invitation to the local authority leaders to submit their own agenda for the community charge review.

Roy Thomason, chairman of the Conservative-controlled Association of District Councils, said: "I hope that it will be possible to agree one agenda for all the local authority associations. It is important that we all play a constructive part in the review."

Dossier may hold the key to Field future

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A "DOSSIER" attacking members of Birkenhead Labour party who have responded to the national leadership's request for information about Militant infiltration could determine the future of Frank Field as a Labour MP.

The view taken by Labour's ruling national executive tomorrow on the report could be the key to whether it decides to block the local party's proposed timetable for the re-run of the reselection contest in the Merseyside constituency.

Mr Field has made plain that he will take no part in the contest provisionally set to end in March until the reforms demanded by the NEC in Birkenhead have been carried out.

If so, Paul Davies, the transport union official who defeated Mr Field in the first contest last year only for the NEC to order a re-run, would almost certainly be chosen to fight the seat at the next election and Labour would lose one of its most senior and respected backbenchers.

Last night, it was clear that the outcome of tomorrow's meeting, and Mr Field's future, hangs in the balance and is likely to be determined by the attitude taken to the case by Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader.

Mr Kinnock, who was in Brussels yesterday, is expected to consider the issue with colleagues today.

But it was clear last night that suggestions that the NEC is certain to delay the timetable are premature. Mr Field has lost support among some NEC members for the high-profile fight that he has waged to defend his position. They have accused him of holding a pistol to their head and say that the NEC has done as much as could be expected of it to defend Mr Field.

whether there are grounds for delaying the contest further and point out that Mr Davies, who has union backing on the NEC, was cleared of any wrongdoing in the earlier enquiry.

However, party officials believe that the alleged dossier is likely to mean that a further investigation will have to take place which would delay the reselection even further.

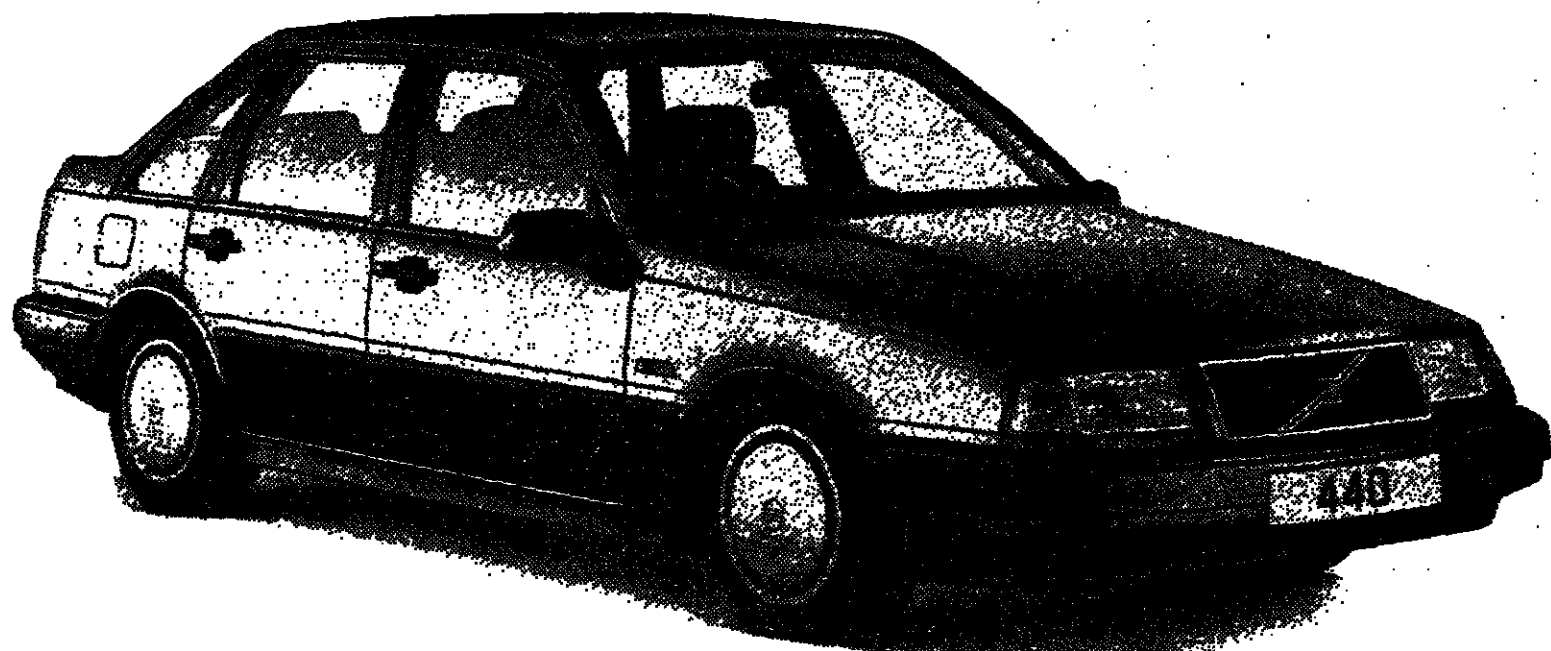
Mr Field alleged in a letter to Mr Kinnock on December 7 that the dossier, circulated in the local party, had made "vindicative attacks" on loyal members who had responded to the NEC's request for information. He described it as the last straw.

Mr Field alleged that, despite repeated attempts, he had failed to get a counter-statement from the party's Walworth Road headquarters in London rebutting the attacks and setting the record straight.

The Labour MP said that he would pull out of any contest after his local party executive and the north-west regional organiser agreed early in December on a timetable beginning later this month and ending in March. Supporters of Mr Field have alleged that there is a conspiracy against him in the north-west.

In his letter to Mr Kinnock, Mr Field was critical of Mr Kilfoyle. Mr Field has said that the agreement to expel known Militant supporters from Birkenhead had not occurred, and named suspected Militants who had flouted the last NEC decision to suspend their membership.

They had turned up at meetings and voted on such key issues as the membership of the NEC itself. He alleged that the local party members who had been suspended would be able to vote in



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من الأصل

Bush says he still hopes for last-ditch peace talks

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush said yesterday that he still hoped for last-ditch talks with Iraq to avert war and did not rule out the possibility that he would permit a Baghdad meeting between James Baker, the United States secretary of state, and President Saddam Hussein a few days after January 3, the administration's ostensible deadline.

But he said that if Iraqi troops had not completely left Kuwait by January 15, the date beyond which the United Nations has sanctioned the use of force, then UN resolutions demanding Iraq's total withdrawal "must be fulfilled". Asked if war would commence from midnight that day, he replied: "Wait and see."

In Baghdad yesterday, Joseph Wilson, the United States charge d'affaires, sought and was granted a meeting with Nizar Hamdoun, under secretary at the Iraqi foreign ministry, in a further attempt to agree dates.

A planned meeting between Mr Bush and Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, in Washington yesterday was cancelled over the weekend because President Saddam had refused to meet Mr Baker before January 12 — too late for Iraq to withdraw nearly half a million troops before January 15, in the view of American officials who say the Iraqi leader is playing for time.

Yesterday morning the Iraqi leadership issued a defiant statement which said: "We reject the dictation of dates from one side as the President of the US wants." In

response, Mr Bush said he was less concerned by that sentence than by the inflexibility of another in the same statement which referred to Kuwait as the "19th province" and to Iraq's "unflinching" determination to keep it. Saddam Hussein still believed the United States was divided and was bluffing about using force but "he's just as wrong as he can be", said Mr Bush.

The point of the talks was to make sure the Iraqi leader understood America's determination, and Mr Bush said he still hoped they would take place. Asked if he would show any flexibility on the January 3 deadline, he declined to speculate "on what I might or might not do".

Mr Bush, whose grim demeanour nowadays suggests a man under stress, made his remarks after announcing his nominations for two vacant cabinet posts. He wants Lynn Martin, a Republican congresswoman who lost a Senate bid last month, to be labour secretary and Lamar Alexander, former governor of Tennessee, to head the education department.

Fourteen former United States government officials said yesterday that the administration should commence military action against Iraq soon after January 15 if it had not withdrawn its forces from Kuwait.

The 14, who were publishing a letter they have sent to the Iraqi leadership, were led by Thomas Moorer, a former chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, and their efforts were designed to counter the recent congressional testimony of several other former officials who said sanctions should be given time to work.

Britain, meanwhile, lined up behind the United States yesterday in insisting that all 350,000 Iraqi troops now in Kuwait would have to leave by the UN Security Council deadline of January 15.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said it would not be good enough for Iraq to have started withdrawing by that time. "They should be completely out," Mr Hurd said, speaking outside a meeting of Nato foreign ministers at the alliance headquarters.

Mr Hurd's hard line which echoed a similar warning from President Bush, came on the eve of a decision by European Community members over whether to pursue a peace initiative with Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister.

EC foreign ministers decided on December 4 to invite Mr Aziz to Rome on the way back from his planned trip to Washington to see President Bush. The meeting in Rome should have taken place tomorrow. But with the Washington visit cancelled, EC foreign ministers were not sure whether to call off the invitation to Mr Aziz.

There was further uncertainty when it was reported in a German television interview in Baghdad that Iraq would agree to a visit by James Baker, the US Secretary of State, to see President Saddam Hussein on January 7. Earlier, on his way to the Brussels meeting, Mr Baker told American reporters travelling with him that the 15 dates offered to Baghdad included Christmas Day.

Iraq defies US and calls up more men

From MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

IRAQ yesterday insisted it would not be dictated to over dates for a meeting with the United States, reducing the possibility of direct talks which Washington has described as the "last best chance for peace in the Gulf". The Iraqi leadership also ordered all reservists aged 33 to report for duty and reiterated its determination never to relinquish Kuwait.

A statement issued after a joint meeting of Iraq's Revolutionary Command Council and the Baath Party chaired by Saddam Hussein said: "We reject the dictation of dates from one side as the president of the United States wants."

It added: "Our belief in Kuwait as part of Iraq is unflinching and that it (Kuwait) is the 19th province is a fact that our people and the armed forces are dealing with as a great gain."

Saddam Hussein has said he was too busy to meet James Baker, the American secretary of state, before January 12, a date rejected by Washington because it would not allow Iraq enough time to pull out of Kuwait by the United Nations deadline three days later. Mr Baker had offered to go to Baghdad on any day between December 20 and January 3, including Christmas day. Iraq had also accused President Bush of calling the meeting merely as a public relations exercise to highlight Iraqi intransigence before going to war.

In its third big call-up of reservists in recent weeks, the Iraqi Defence Ministry ordered all men born in 1957 to report for duty within a week. Since Saddam Hussein announced on November 19 that he would send another 250,000 men to Kuwait, Iraq has recalled 60,000 reservist farmers and an unknown number of men aged 30, 31 and 32.

Meanwhile, a Soviet delegation in Baghdad began negotiations over Iraqi demands for financial compensation for withdrawing from several large oil, hydroelectric and military contracts.



Coon on manoeuvres: Sir Harry Secombe, the entertainer, giving the thumbs-up yesterday while hitching a ride in a Spartan armoured vehicle fitted with the Javelin air defence system. He was visiting the 40 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, in Saudi Arabia

Moscow presses for release of workers

From BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

THE Soviet foreign ministry, which in the past has threatened to protect its nationals in Iraq by force, gave a warning last night that it was holding Baghdad to its promise of releasing all foreigners. The warning came after reports from Baghdad that nearly 2,600 Soviet citizens, who play a key role in the Iraqi economy, were being prevented from leaving, pending settlement of financial disputes over unfilled contracts.

Vitaly Churkin, the Soviet foreign ministry spokesman, acknowledged that there were outstanding financial disputes, but told reporters that the release of Soviet resident expatriates "had been promised at the highest level, and we are firmly proceeding on this basis".

He said the 2,565 Soviet citizens remaining in Iraq, after the evacuation over the last 10 days of 751 of their compatriots, should be allowed to leave the country. Many of the expatriates work as advisers in the oil industry.

Mr Churkin said that workers in northern Iraq might not feel in acute danger as their compatriots in the south, but added: "We openly tell Soviet citizens that it will be expedient to leave Iraq in the interests of their security."

The prospect of Moscow's nationals being trapped arose after a Soviet embassy spokesman said a senior trade delegation from the Kremlin, which began talks in the Iraqi capital yesterday, was in effect trying to negotiate the release of expatriate workers.

"This delegation will discuss

means of overcoming difficulties preventing Soviet workers from leaving Iraq and of implementing Soviet commitments to the contracts," the spokesman said. "The delegation will discuss the scope of the responsibility borne by the Soviet government, and the Iraqi government's insistence not to allow the experts to leave unless the Soviet government bears responsibility for breaching the contracts."

Mr Churkin confirmed that the team, led by deputy ministers for trade and the oil and gas industry, would "deal with Soviet-Iraqi contracts in connection with Soviet specialists' departure from Iraq". Acknowledging the possibility of legitimate claims on the Iraqi side, he said the talks will make clear "who owes what to whom".

He insisted that "one should not jump to this or that conclusion" as to whether remaining nationals were trapped.

According to Mr Churkin, a planeload of Soviet citizens had returned yesterday to Moscow and it might not be clear until today whether problems would arise for their remaining compatriots.

Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet foreign minister, said last month that Moscow would not hesitate to use force on behalf of its citizens in Iraq. Clarifying Mr Shevardnadze's stance on possible guarantees of Iraq's territorial integrity, Mr Churkin said there could be "serious discussions" of such guarantees if Iraq were to leave Kuwait.

Security tightened on Temple Mount

From PAUL ADAMS IN JERUSALEM

FEARING a repeat of October's bloody clash in which 17 Palestinians died outside Jerusalem's al-Aqsa mosque, Israeli security forces yesterday prevented a small group of ultra-nationalist Jews from approaching the Muslim holy sites on the Haram es-Sherif, or Temple Mount.

The army also barred Palestinians from the occupied territories from entering Jerusalem, and kept Muslim youths away from the Haram es-Sherif.

The precautions worked and there were no disturbances. Police arrested four members of assassinated Rabbi Meir Kahane's anti-Arab Kach organisation, including two senior members, who tried to enter the Muslim enclosure, revered by Jews as the site of two ancient temples, both destroyed.

The Temple Mount Faithful — a group of teenagers touting Israeli flags led by Gershon Solomon — spent some time at the adjoining Wailing Wall, before marching outside the city walls.

Mr Solomon lit a Hanukkah candle, vowing to perform the ceremony on the Temple Mount in the future. "The Temple Mount will continue to be a volcanic mountain until the Arab occupation is finished," he said.

Arab shops in the old city were closed, following a strike called by the Islamic fundamentalist org-

anisation, Hamas. Businesses throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip also shut their doors.

A military panel, meanwhile, heard appeals against the deportation orders issued on Saturday to four alleged Hamas members. At the defence's request, the hearing was adjourned until today. It is thought unlikely that the panel will overturn the order, "deported" by Washington as a violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, dispelled rumours that the cabinet was planning to introduce the death penalty for convicted terrorists. Mr Shamir said there was no moral objection, but said the subject was not on the cabinet agenda. Several ministers, including Moshe Arens, the defence minister, have recently spoken in favour of introducing the death sentence for serious offences.

AMMAN: Jordan's Red Crescent Society appealed yesterday to the United Nations Security Council and international humanitarian bodies to protect Palestinians under Israeli rule. Ahmed Abu Qoura, president of the country's Red Crescent Society and the international standing committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, said the decision to expel four Palestinian activists was illegal. (Reuters)

Ministers disagree on how to boost Nato

Brussels — Nato's foreign ministers unanimously agreed yesterday that the "European pillar" of the military alliance should be strengthened, but could not agree how this should be done (Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent, writes).

The ministers, attending a North Atlantic Council meeting, had the future of the alliance at the top of their agenda, despite more pressing worries about the Gulf and the role Europe should play in supporting Washington's stand against Iraq.

James Baker, the American Secretary of State, who was clearly more concerned with his on-off visit to Baghdad, said that America had long supported a strengthened European role within the alliance. Washington had noted "with particular interest" suggestions that the nine-nation Paris-based Western European Union (WEU) might form the basis of such an identity.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, repeating his message in Berlin a week ago, also favoured a higher-profile WEU that could represent Europe within the alliance. Other ministers, notably those from France and Italy, were more interested in having the WEU take on new defence responsibilities for the European Community. Leading article, page 13

Korean war link

Peking — China did not vote for the United Nations resolution authorising military force against Iraq because of the body's role in the Korean war. Mr Qian Qichen, the foreign minister, told the Communist People's Daily that China abstained because the Korean war, launched in the UN's name, "remains fresh in the minds of the Chinese people". (AP)

Pakistani boost

Islamabad — Pakistan began sending 3,000 more troops to Saudi Arabia yesterday, dispelling doubt about its commitment to supporting Saudi Arabia against Iraq. The first infantry soldiers left aboard a Saudi Arabian airliner, and the rest would be following over the next two days, a military spokesman said. (Reuters)

Polish aid deal

Warsaw — Poland has signed an agreement with Saudi Arabia on sending a medical team and two ships to join the United Nations forces in the Gulf, the official PAP news agency said. The agreement calls for Polish medical personnel and a hospital ship and rescue ship to bolster multinational forces in the Gulf. (Reuters)

Peace boat due

Khartoum — A "peace boat" carrying 150 women taking medicine and milk powder to Iraq is due in Port Sudan, Sudan's Radio Omdurman said. The Iraqi-registered Ibn Khaldoun left Tunis early this month on a voyage organised by Arab women's unions. It has called at a number of Arab ports and will visit Yemen on its way to Iraq. (Reuters)

Abbas makes worldwide threat

By JUAN CARLOS GUMUCIO



Abbas: US only understands the language of war

THE leader of the Baghdad-based Palestine Liberation Front, Abu Abbas, said yesterday that if war broke out in the Gulf, no place in the world would be safe for supporters of the anti-Baghdad coalition.

"The Americans understand only the language of war. We have to act on the basis that the aggression will take place at any moment," he told Iraq's official Al-Jumhuriya daily newspaper.

The guerrilla commander, whose real name is Mohammed Abbas, was behind the hijacking of the Italian cruise liner Achille Lauro in 1985 and is wanted in the United States for killing an elderly, wheelchair-bound Ameri-

can Jewish passenger. In the second such threat in three months, Abu Abbas said that his men and other Arab guerrillas stood ready to attack "the striking Palestinian groups have defined American and Western targets which they will attack if the American aggression against Iraq takes place," he was quoted as saying. "Among those targets are US installations and interests spread all over the globe."

If one is to believe Abu Abbas or his strategy, as hopes for a peaceful settlement faded rapidly yesterday, Palestinian admirers of President Saddam Hussein would begin sabotage operations throughout the world immediately the first shot was fired in the Gulf.

Rush to make a killing from war games

By MARTIN FLETCHER

THERE may be no war in the Gulf this side of January 15, but why wait? One of the faster moving Christmas presents in US stores this year is a board game called "Gulf Strike/Desert Shield" which purports to simulate what will happen when the Americans get tired of waiting and launch a pre-emptive strike.

Ghoulish? Certainly realistic. It is designed by a Washington-based Pentagon consultant named Mark Herman. Jackson Dotti, a spokesman for Monarch Avalon, the Baltimore manufacturers, claims it is "probably a more sophisticated look at what is happening there than you can get from any newspaper, radio or television show".

The Iraqis get clobbered. The game appeared within 45 days of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on August 2 and has already been reprinted. "It's the hottest thing we have right now," said Mr Dotti, whose company is now exporting the game to Britain.

Monarch Avalon is not alone in exploiting the commercial spin-offs of the conflict. According to The Wall Street Journal, the XTR Corporation is soon to unveil a board game called "Butcher of Baghdad", designed by Colonel Gary Eldridge, who works for the deputy chief of staff for operations and plans at the Pentagon. This will not reach the shelves by Christmas, largely because Colonel Eldridge has been preoccupied with planning real strategy.

"Butcher of Baghdad" is an adult war game whose board

whose counters represent actual Iraqi, US and allied units with all their strengths and weaknesses.

Given the position of Colonel Eldridge, who has been working seven-day weeks over the past few months, this was somewhat sensitive. "I got basic permission some months ago, but I've got to run it through the Pentagon again before it's published," he said yesterday.

The war-games periodical Strategy and Tactics is this week publishing, as an 80-page insert, a game called "Arabian Nightmare: The Kuwait War". "If people accuse me of making money over a person's dead body, I guess I'd have to plead guilty," James Dunnigan, the editor, told the Journal.

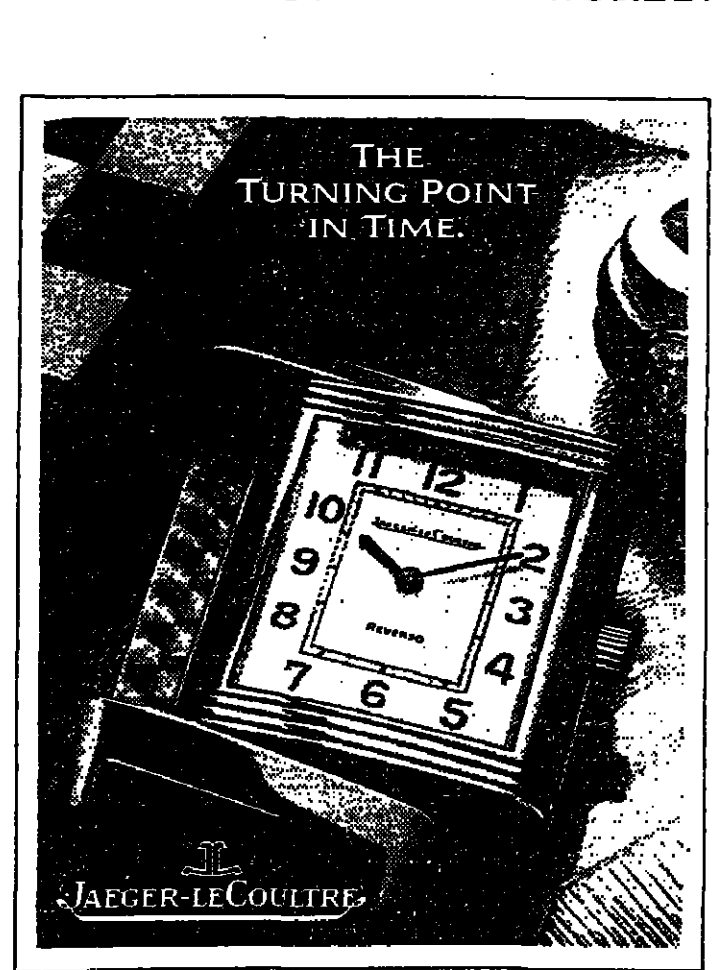
Some people have expressed disgust at the idea of selling such war games as Christmas presents

can soldiers may be dying in the Middle East, but there is little evidence that the men of the crack 101st Airborne would share that sentiment.

Newsweek reported yesterday that they are preparing to revive an old Vietnam tradition — leaving a death card, an Ace of Spades, on the dead bodies of enemy soldiers. The magazine has reproduced one of the cards: on one side appears the slogan "Death By Dogs", on the other the name of the unit, a picture of an eagle with a skull in its talons, and the words "Operation Desert Shield 1990".

PARIS: French nationals held hostage at Iraqi strategic sites will be paid by their government double the compensation of those detained in luxury Baghdad hotels (Reuters reports). France is to give £3,000 to each "human shield" and £1,500 to every other released.

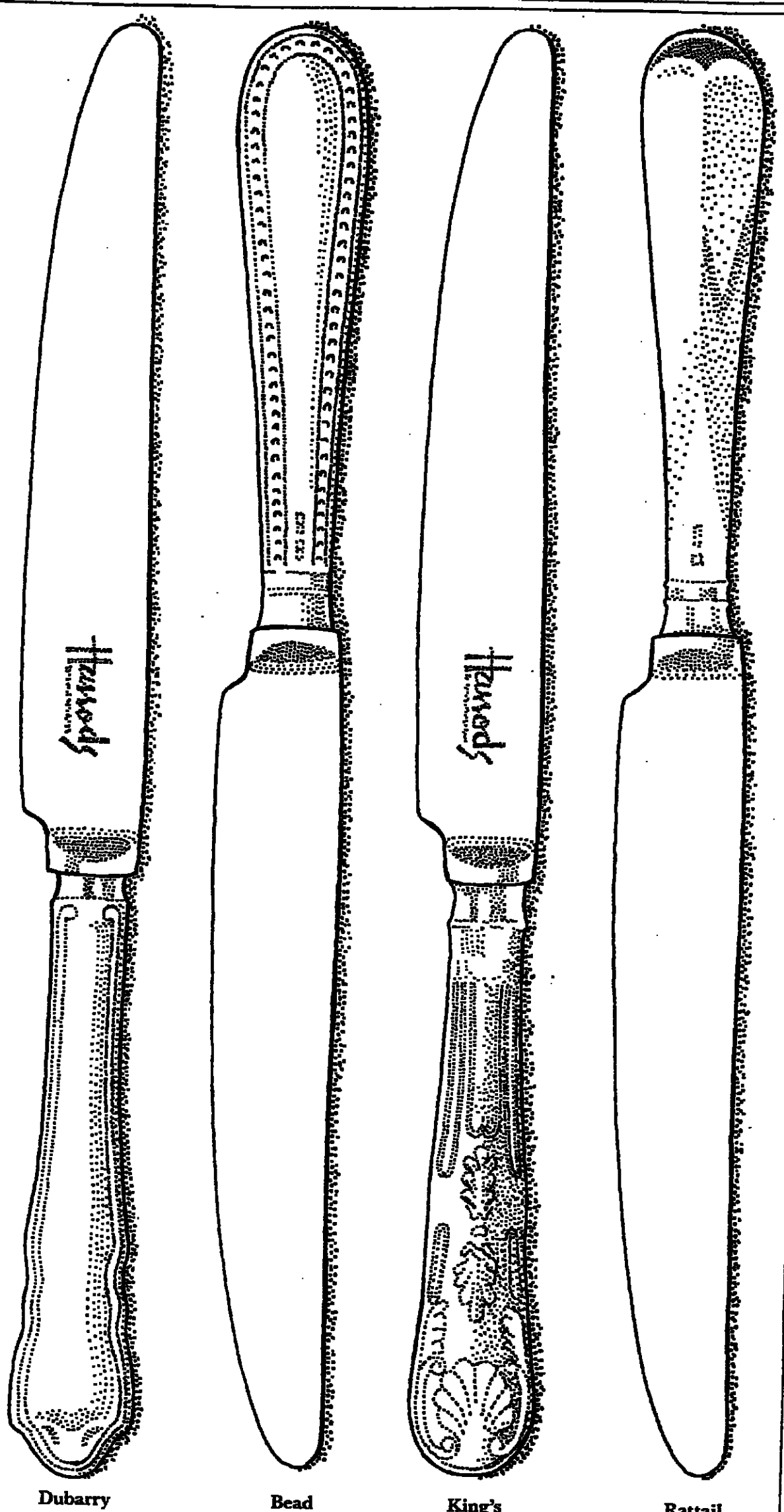
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Fiesta in Haiti as radical priest heads for poll win

Horde of delirious Haitians poured out of the waterfront slums yesterday to surround the white-domed national palace in a sea of celebration as Father Jean Bertrand Aristide, the radical priest dubbed the "people's candidate", seemed to be heading for an overwhelming presidential election win.

With official results possibly days away, an Aristide landslide looked assured as sources among international observer groups weighed up the popular verdict. After monitoring polling stations, they said that Father Aristide, aged 37, who has promised sweeping changes, had taken at least two-thirds of the vote.

The party began late on Sunday night with happy groups of slum dwellers chanting and singing outside their homes. Yesterday morning, thousands of chanting revellers swarmed towards the centre of Port-au-Prince, waving branches in scenes reminiscent of the celebrations after the flight into exile of President "Baby Doc" Duvalier in February 1986.

The impoverished masses had decided not to wait for

The prospect of Jean Aristide as president raises doubts about how the right and military will respond, writes Alan Tomlinson from Port-au-Prince

official bulletins. "Communiqué! Tiède président!", they chanted, using the affectionate nickname of the diminutive priest-turned-politician who had worked for years as a teacher in the slums before being elected from his Salesian Order for opposing his bishops, who wanted him to stay out of politics in the chaotic post-Duvalier era.

Several happy supporters held aloft live cockroaches, the symbol of Father Aristide's campaign which swept aside ten other candidates in the presidential race after his late entry in October.

Preliminary counts in the poorest districts indicated he had won all, but a handful, of the votes at some polling stations. Some foreign observers said the priest had also carried many middle and upper-class areas, where his principal opponent, the con-

widespread lapses in the organisation of the elections might result in many ballots being annulled, and no Haitian could rule out irregularities happening during the count, especially if foreign observers leave, as they plan to do, before the official results are announced.

The priest's revolutionary rhetoric troubles businessmen, the military, and foreign diplomats here, but Alvin Adams, the influential American ambassador, had insisted before the election that Washington was ready to work with whoever wins.

There is also the matter of threats from hardcore Duvalierists, who would like to prevent Father Aristide from assuming the presidency.

But a Haitian political analyst, Jean-Claude Bajoux, said that none of these factors concerned the vast majority of voters in the Western hemisphere's poorest nation. "What will happen afterwards does not matter to them. They live only for today. They think only of making enough money to eat today. Tomorrow is a distant concept. Tomorrow belongs to God."

Bush's rights chief visits Peking

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

FOR the first time, China is hosting the visit of a foreign official whose agenda is almost exclusively an examination of human rights abuses. Richard Schifter, the United States assistant secretary of state for human rights, arrived in Peking yesterday for talks with Chinese leaders.

His visit is believed to be a concession wrought from Peking in exchange for the visit by Qian Qichen, the foreign minister, to the White House. China was delighted at his meeting with President Bush, since it re-established its international standing.

American embassy officials in Peking have released no details of Mr Schifter's itinerary, but he is expected to meet Mr Qian, as well as other high-ranking officials, and visit a prison or labour camp in Peking. He will also discuss bilateral issues.

Foreign journalists and visitors are occasionally allowed to visit the No. 1 prison and the labour camp, where they are introduced to repentant prisoners, who declare that they have realised the error of their ways and wish to use their lives in the service of the people's republic. There are other prisons and labour camps which have never been opened to foreign observers.

China refuses dialogue with Amnesty International and other human rights organisations and issues vitriolic statements of condemnation every time China's human rights record is brought into question by foreign organisations or officials. Spokesmen in Peking say that human rights is an internal issue in which no foreigner has the authority to interfere. They



Qian Qichen, above, the Chinese foreign minister, and Wang Dan, below, the detained student leader



maintain that China, as a developing country, is basically concerned with the human rights of food and clothing for the population.

Mr Schifter's visit is highly sensitive, and it is not clear whether Chinese leaders will respond defensively, or try to present a benevolent face to the world, treating the visit as a propaganda exercise. A group of diplomats living in Peking were recently allowed to visit a prison in the capital, suggesting a slightly more open attitude to foreign examination of human rights. "We must regard these things as positive moves," said one diplomat. "But we see no difference in practice."

Mr Schifter's trip comes as the political trials of leading dissidents are about to take place. He is believed to have a list of dissidents who have remained in detention without trial since the June 4, 1989, mass killings, and who are expected to be tried soon on charges of counter-revolution. These include Wang Dan, a student leader, as well as two newspaper editors, Wang Jintao and Chen Ziming. Court officials say another student leader, Zhang Ming, has been tried, but sentence has yet to be passed.

Sterile fly ploy to stop parasite

Tunis - About 3.5 million sterile male flies have been flown to Libya as part of an American-backed campaign to eradicate the screwworm, a deadly flesh-eating parasite that threatens livestock throughout Africa.

The flies are the first consignment to arrive from a joint United States-Mexican plant at Chiapa de Corso in Mexico, the official Libyan news agency Jana said yesterday. The campaign organisers will start releasing the sterile males from planes today over an experimental area of about 2,700 square miles, it added. The idea is that the sterile males will outnumber the fertile males born in Libya. When they mate with the females, the eggs will be infertile, breaking the chain of reproduction.

The screwworm fly, three times the size of a house fly, first appeared in Libya in 1988, probably with a consignment of livestock from the Americas. It had never before been seen outside the Americas, and livestock experts say it could do enormous damage to wild and domestic animals in Africa, the Middle East and southern Europe.

The females lay their eggs in the slightest wounds on live animals or people, and the larvae bore their way into the flesh, deepening the wound and preparing it for fresh infestations. Campaign organisers plan to bombard infected areas with millions of flies every two weeks for the next two years. (Reuters)

Ershad enquiry

Dhaka - Shahabuddin Ahmed, the interim president of Bangladesh, said that a three-man commission, headed by a supreme court judge, will investigate charges of corruption against the ousted President Ershad as a first step to putting the former military ruler on trial. They will also investigate charges against former ministers and other senior officials. Mr Ershad could face the death penalty if found guilty.

Aboriginal aid

Sydney - Australia launched a \$AUS232 million (£93 million) campaign to improve the health of the Aboriginal population, which the Labor government of Bob Hawke has admitted is as bad as in Third World countries. Life expectancy of Aborigines is 22 years less than whites, and infant mortality rates in Aboriginal communities are three times higher than the national average.

Kashmir talks

Islamabad - India and Pakistan, who nearly went to war over a Muslim uprising in Kashmir this year, are trying this week to bridge their differences as Hindu-Muslim violence convulses India. Three days of talks start today, concentrating on the revolt in Indian Kashmir. However, neither side is expecting a breakthrough. (Reuters)

One-track mines

Sao Paulo - A Brazilian mining company has a new approach to strikebreaking - showing erotic films. Union leaders say officials at Companhia Vale do Rio Doce have been playing the films to entice non-strikers to stay in their factory. The weekly *Voz* said union leaders are considering showing the same films to strikers. (Reuters)

HO CHI MINH CITY NOTEBOOK by James Pringle

Walking the streets under 'Uncle's' watchful eye

The most popular T-shirt here features *Miss Saigon* from the London musical show. The best-selling book is a translation of Neil Sheehan's *A Bright Shining Lie*, an opus on one of the more colourful American characters of the Vietnam war, "Saigon Tea", a colourful drink known to numberless GIs, is again on sale for 60p, its Vietnam war price.

There are few outward signs these days that this is a communist state, with a still pervasive security system. One, possibly, is the billboard slogan: "This city is rich, beautiful, civilised and modern, worthy to be named after Uncle Ho". In fact, few people call the former capital anything other than Saigon, even in this centenary year of Ho Chi Minh's birth.

Vietnam's leaders are anxious to avoid the repeat of Eastern Europe's turmoil. They have become more conservative as they wrestle with developing a moribund economy, while insisting on the leading role of the Communist party. A party congress in mid-1991 will signpost the way ahead.

In the meantime, Vietnam is trying to open up to foreign investment. Recently, the government approved 11 foreign projects, worth £60 million, five in the industrial sector, two in transport and one each in tourism, fisheries, agriculture and construction. A few British, French and Thai banks have opened offices here, as have leading advertising agencies.

A sign just outside Tan Son Nhut airport announces: "First in Vietnam - Ogilvy and

Mather". And John Brinsden, the recently arrived Standard Chartered Bank manager, says: "This is a place of great potential."

Behind the outward signs of prosperity, there is a sense of desperation in Vietnam over spiralling inflation as Soviet aid dries up. Unemployment figures are at about 20 per cent, with many soldiers who returned from fighting in Cambodia last year still jobless.

People hold down two or three jobs, but they will not be taking to the boats; enough news has filtered back now from Hong Kong and other destinations about conditions in displaced persons' camps.

There are more pestering street urchins and beggars than ever before, and many more prostitutes have recently appeared, a sure indication of an economic downturn - pretty teenage girls, some as young as 15, loitering about outside hotels.

A local newspaper asks: "Can Vietnam avoid the spread of Aids?" No cases have been reported yet, it says, but there is no note of self-congratulation. "Prostitution and drug addiction are on the rise," it reports, noting that there are about four thousand drug addicts in Hanoi alone.

The press also reflects the party's split personality. Alongside articles preaching modernisation and overseas investment, others warn against foreign contacts. "Over the past period, especially since early 1990, the imperialist forces and international reaction have intensified their sabotage activities against our revolution," said Brigadier Duong Thong, a security official.

مكتبة من الأصل

De Maizière resigns in shadow of Stasi claims

From IAN MURRAY IN BONN

LOTHAR de Maizière, deputy leader of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and the last East German prime minister, resigned as minister without portfolio from the German government yesterday because "I can neither confirm nor deny" findings suggesting that he worked for eight years as an "informal" informer for the hated Stasi secret police.

The findings were revealed during an intensive search of the Stasi records and files by Joachim Gauck, a special investigator of the interior ministry, who has been in charge of examining the Stasi files. Reporting the findings at a special news conference yesterday, Wolfgang Schäuble, the interior minister, said that an informal collaborator of the Stasi working under the code name "Czerny" had been reporting to them since 1981 about the evangelical church. Herr de Maizière is of Huguenot stock and was vice-president of the East German federation of evangelical churches.

"There are indications that 'Czerny' could have been Lothar de Maizière," Herr Schäuble said. The evidence in a Stasi card index had shown that "Czerny" and the former prime minister could be the same person. Herr Schäuble said, however, that it was nevertheless not possible to tell from the evidence so far whether or not "Czerny" knew he was supplying the Stasi with information.

"There is no proof of guilt," Herr Schäuble said. There had been some evidence supplied by

witnesses, "but we have to remember that they were all Stasi too and might be lying," he said. Herr de Maizière said that the inability of the investigators to clear his name beyond any doubt meant that he had no choice but to step down as minister, as deputy leader of the party and as leader of the CDU in Brandenburg. He would not allow himself to be considered for another post in the new government, he said, because the Stasi problem was so difficult and he did not want to burden the party with "the unclear situation".

He intends, however, to make use of his seat in the Bundestag to help him continue to try to clear his name. He has asked Herr Schäuble to order that the investigation continues until the truth is known. "I want clarity of the case, in the interests of my family, of myself and in the interests of political civilisation," he said. He said that he did have regular contacts with Stasi members, but only in connection with his work as a lawyer. He refused to reveal whom he used to see because, he said, this was all *sub judice*.

Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, promptly accepted his resignation. "I respect his decision," the chancellor said in a statement. He still has my great trust and I do not doubt his word. Any prejudging of his case would be unwarranted.

Despite the chancellor's professed confidence in his deputy's innocence, he did not try to prevent Herr de Maizière leaving the government or from withdrawing his name from consideration for the new coalition which is now being formed.

On the face of it the evidence is sufficiently damning to make it difficult for all suspicion about his

Spiegel exposes reporter as spy

From ANNE McELVOY IN BERLIN

GERMANY'S most influential news magazine, *Der Spiegel*, has always boasted that its cover stories send the country's humbler hacks scurrying after the stories it launches.

Yesterday's issue, however, sheepishly admitted what the journalistic community had been gossiping about for the past week: that the magazine's East Berlin bureau chief was a Stasi agent charged with disseminating disinformation through the columns of the magazine.

The name of Dietrich Schröder still stands in the list of correspondents where he is modestly described as being "on leave". Herr Schröder decided that he was in need of a holiday after he was called in for questioning and accused of passing military and political information to the East Germans.

The magazine, which is renowned for its investigative journalism and for its exclusive revelations about the East German secret service, yesterday admitted that it appears to have been harbouring an agent as one of its top reporters.

"Only now, three months after unification, is it becoming clear that the long arm of the Stasi reached not only into the offices of ministries, but into almost all social circles of the Federal Republic of Germany," the magazine wrote.

Herr Schröder, who before moving to East Berlin had been the magazine's military expert in Bonn, was widely known in the ministry of defence and was a friend of the Nato general secretary, Manfred Wörner.

Herr Wörner has since engaged in heated public debate as to whether Herr Schröder was familiar enough with him to visit him at home and call him by the more intimate *du* form of "you" in conversation.

For the magazine, which started as the brain child of the allies to act as a watchdog on the corruption in postwar Germany and has been published since by the eminent journalist Rudolf Augstein, the case is one of the revealers revealed.

Der Spiegel has a long tradition of exclusives, including some featuring the head of East German intelligence, Markus Wolf.

Herr Wolf had long boasted that he had "someone sitting in *Der Spiegel*" but the claim was dismissed by West Germany. All correspondents sent to East Berlin were carefully vetted before they were given posts there.

Herr Schröder appears to have been infiltrated into the West in the 1950s on the orders of Herr Wolf with instructions to rise in journalism there.

Herr Schröder's colleagues at the magazine's Berlin office said yesterday they were "shocked" but had no comment to make. Another prominent journalist, working for the radio station Sender Freies Berlin, was dis-



De Maizière will continue efforts to clear his name

past to be wiped out. Herr Kohl cannot run the risk that the evidence is accurate.

At the same time his departure leaves an awkward gap in the government now being formed. The chancellor has promised that he will include former East Germans in senior posts in his cabinet, although none have much of the necessary political experience.

As the CDU leader in East Germany, Herr de Maizière was expected to be given responsibility for liaising with the work of redevelopment. He will be difficult to replace, although he only came to prominence just over a year ago. He took over the CDU precisely because he was supposed to have no shady past, unlike Gerald Götting, who had been party leader when it served as a block party under the communists.

Meanwhile, leaders of Germany's opposition Social Democrats, anxious to put their crushing defeat in this month's elections behind them, yesterday nominated the Schleswig-Holstein state prime minister, Björn Engholm, as their new leader. The party executive voted unanimously to make him its candidate to replace the present chairman, Hans-Jochen Vogel, at a congress next May, but he is expected to start taking charge immediately.



Reaching out: Mother Theresa admiring the cross which Petre Roman, the Romanian prime minister, wears around his neck, during their meeting in Bucharest yesterday. Famed for her charity work in the Third World, the Albanian-born Mother Theresa is visiting Romania at her own request

Delors insists EMU warning is aimed at all the Twelve

From MICHAEL BINYON IN BRUSSELS

JACQUES Delors, the European Commission president, yesterday repeated his assertion that failure to achieve economic and monetary union (EMU) would lead to a conflict within the European Community, but insisted that his remarks at the Rome summit are directed not only at Britain.

Before a lengthy talk yesterday with Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, M Delors said that it was not his job to enter into the internal affairs of member states. In a television interview, he said: "I simply said that if we cannot complete the inter-governmental conference mandate, I fear a political divergence of the community."

His repeated forecast of confrontation with any country trying

to hold up EMU reflects his recent pessimism over the attitudes of some member countries, especially Germany, on EMU, and was not simply an off-guard remark made under pressure at Rome. It is understood that Sir Leon Brittan, the competition commissioner, yesterday criticised M Delors for his stance, believing it had jeopardised the thaw in relations between Britain and Brussels.

M Delors said that he had a duty to protect the commission's interest, and his remarks referred not only to the British government but to any member state putting forward diversionary proposals.

Mr Kinnock, on a visit to Brussels in a series of top-level opposition visits to try to con-

vince the commission of Labour's commitment to Europe, said that he did not think M Delors was particularly suspicious of British intentions.

"He will work amicably with anybody, but he does have an objective in mind," the Labour leader told a press conference after his meeting. "What he finds objectionable is to be subjected to the politics of tantrums."

Mr Kinnock said suspicion was not a good basis on which to conduct policy. But M Delors was no more suspicious of Britain than of any other member state.

He told M Delors that Labour was ready to accept EMU, provided it was in the British interest. But he repeated the arguments put forward by John Major, both as chancellor and prime minister, that there had to be greater prior economic convergence of the EC's economies before Britain would benefit. This was not a "neat little precondition": it was the only precondition in which EMU would work satisfactorily for Britain and the rest of the community.

Mr Kinnock welcomed the softer tone of Mr Major at the Rome summit, but said the government's position on Europe was now one of complete confusion. "It has gone from the 'no' of Mrs Thatcher to 'no policy'."

He said M Delors, a strong supporter of the EC social charter, agreed that good currency depended on a social economy and not just on the market alone.

Mr Kinnock said even conservative governments in Germany and The Netherlands accepted the need for a social charter to balance economic development. "Britain is an exception to this view."



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Kinnock: ready to accept EMU if it helped Britain

Iliescu pins hope on coalition talks

From TIM JUDAH IN BUCHAREST

THE Romanian government yesterday tried to ease tension in the country by sounding out opposition parties on forming a broader coalition government of national unity.

President Iliescu said on Romanian radio that he had begun mediating between Petre Roman, the prime minister, and Radu Campeanu, the leader of the National Liberal Party.

"The talks concentrated on a dialogue and negotiations to be conducted over the next few days. The National Liberal Party pledged to contact other opposition parties to find possible solutions for opposition participation in government," President Iliescu said.

Mr Campeanu, who was heading a four-strong team, was negotiating with Mr Roman, Claudiu Iordache, the ruling National Salvation Front's vice-president, and the front's parliamentary leaders, Alexandru Barladeanu and Dan Martian.

However, last night Mr Roman firmly rejected opposition calls for his resignation and said that there was "no question" of new elections which were demanded by some opposition parties.

The Liberals, for one, are pushing for a national unity government and early elections. In an interview with *The Times* Mr Roman confirmed that he would like some sort of coalition "if there is some kind of benefit for the political interest of the country." He was speaking after President Iliescu's meeting with Mr Campeanu. He refused to comment on the substance of yesterday's coalition talks but said that they were "just a first meeting ... We are opening the way to negotiations." He added: "The participation in government of responsible political forces could be a more efficient way of solving the political crisis."

Mr Roman became Romania's first post-revolutionary prime minister on December 26 last year. After his National Salvation Front won last May's elections with more than two-thirds of the vote, it mooted the idea of a coalition government but this was rejected by the opposition parties. Mr Campeanu now seems to have revived his party's interest in joining the government. At the same time he has helped found the six-party National Convention for the Restoration of Democracy, an anti-government grouping of opposition parties.

Last night Mr Campeanu would not comment on his talks with Mr Roman saying that he had to consult with his party first.

According to a Western observer here, "Campeanu's ambition seems to be getting the better of him. He badly wants that cabinet seat." He also noted that if Mr Campeanu does now join the government Mr Roman will have skillfully divided the opposition while giving the impression of seeking a national consensus just as his government is beset by strikes and demonstrations against his economic austerity programme.

The main popular grudge against Mr Roman is that he began his austerity programme by liberalising prices last month and ending four decades of price subsidies.

Speaking on the first anniversary of the Timisoara bloodshed, which triggered Romania's revolution, Mr Roman admitted that the fact that virtually no one has been brought to justice for the more than thousand deaths during the revolution was a "burden".

Albanian pledge of quick trials for protests

From RICHARD BASSETT AND DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE

ALBANIA'S beleaguered leadership yesterday pledged to put on trial "immediately" 157 demonstrators arrested during violent protests in several cities last week.

At the same time, in an attempt to consolidate the support of the recently established Democratic Party, it legalised the opposition grouping and other movements which have sprung up since students began protests in Tirana, the capital, eight days ago.

Although the leadership hopes to weather the storm by granting legal status to the relatively tame Democratic Party, whose principal leaders are sons of former leaders and other members of Albania's elite, President Alia remains in a precarious position.

The announcement on Tirana radio yesterday that those detained by police will be brought to trial as quickly as possible underlines the fragility of authority in the country. The leadership hopes by this move to avoid inflaming already volatile public opinion.

However, the investigating judge, Cemal Lama, in a statement broadcast on Tirana radio yesterday, provoked further anti-government feeling. He said: "Most of those charged are hooligans who have been tried before for committing acts contrary to civil morale." The last phrase is a frequent communist euphemism for political offences.

Gramoz Pashko, leader of the Democratic Party, met Adil Carcani, the prime minister, late on Sunday night. Mr Pashko has succeeded in calming the students in Tirana, but his requests to travel to other cities to set up local branches of his party have been denied.

Tanks were reported to be still patrolling the northern cities of Shkoder and Elbasan and the army was on alert in the Adriatic port of Durres.

Notwithstanding Mr Pashko's negotiating skills and the deployment of military force, it seems

Major leaves arena with a good press

From PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS AND IAN MURRAY

JOHN Major has won over hearts, but perhaps not fully the trust, of European leaders, according to French and German newspaper comment on the community summit in Rome.

Although Mr Major has still to establish himself fully in French eyes as Margaret Thatcher's successor, he did make yesterday's front page of *L'Humanité*, official mouthpiece of the Communist party.

He and Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, were pictured smiling and joking in armchairs. They had good reason to be feeling pleased, the paper said, having just decided - in company with President Mitterrand of France - to lead the EC "across the Rubicon" towards supranationality.

For the left-centre *Libération*, Britain's new leader had given his EC partners a glimpse of a new style of negotiation "which hints at certain creeping changes in policy". *Libération's* man on the spot said Mr Major's "affable" performance in Rome was especially welcomed by those who had once been on the receiving end of the Thatcher handbag. The Greeks were even said to have found him "sympathetic", while observers of his visit to a performance of *Tosca* praised the Major touch for warmth and informality: no pretensions and nothing of "le snob".

But the paper had no illusions that Britain would now easily adopt a "more European" position. The article pointed out that, since no decisions had to be taken, and there were no details, it was relatively easy to show harmony.

All the papers highlighted what was seen by the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* as "a constructive spirit" from Mr Major.

The *Süddeutsche Zeitung* went further: "London no longer strictly rules out an EC common currency. British European policy is becoming more flexible."

Herr Kohl told *Die Welt* that he and Mr Major had different ideas about the European Parliament and a Euro-currency, but that the prime minister wanted a frank discussion in order to make a positive contribution.

For the conservative *Le Quotidien de Paris*, Mr Major had succeeded in making "an assured and amiable" entrance on the community stage, although it went on to describe him as "smiling with machine-gun vigour".

In Bonn, the *General-Anzeiger* newspaper summed up the main impression in Germany of "Britain back at the negotiating table again".

But the paper had no illusions that Britain would now easily adopt a "more European" position. The article pointed out that, since no decisions had to be taken, and there were no details, it was relatively easy to show harmony.

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Kinnock: ready to accept EMU if it helped Britain

French party misses out on seasonal spirit

By PHILIP JACOBSON

THE doctrinal position which France's communists take on Christmas is unclear, but as the party's annual congress begins today, festive spirit and goodwill are expected to be in short supply.

While shoppers are spending as if there is no tomorrow for capitalism, delegates will be wrestling with sharp internal divisions over control and policy in what one unkind critic calls "Stalin's last constituency".

Since the proceedings at Saint-Ouen, which mark the 70th anniversary of the party's founding, will once again be orchestrated by Georges Marchais - "unreconstructed" general secretary for the past 17 years - the "renovation" wing will have trouble making its voice heard.

For a start, majestically indifferent to the turmoil in a growing number of local organisations,

crisis of confidence in his leadership (alternatively, there is a "socialist plot" to damage him and, by immodest extension, the entire working class).

The party's well-entrenched apparatchiks have been rehearsing standing ovations for M Marchais, whose set piece speeches sound increasingly like some re-run of the Brezhnev era. In what other communist party in the West - or the remains of the party in the East - are voters still wooed with denunciations of "petit-bourgeoisie intrigue" and appeals to overthrow the capitalist hegemony?

According to senior party figures, the congress will be "the most democratic that any political organisation has ever held in France". But dissenters within the ranks complain that while opposition to the leadership may now be touching between 20 and 25 per cent of the membership in regional

ously translated into 2 to 3 per cent when it comes to counting the votes on individual motions before the assembly.

In an apparent effort to demonstrate that ground root support was holding fast, the party has recently been encouraging local branches to pass judgement on its programmes: to nobody's great surprise, these organised straw polls have produced huge majorities - 92 per cent and upwards - in favour of the established order.

Unsurprisingly, M Marchais, 70, has presided over a steep decline in the fortunes of what some French still call "les cocos". Until the late 1970s, the communists regularly took more than 20 per cent of the vote at parliamentary elections; after the 1978 campaign, they held 86 seats in the National Assembly.

The most recent election, in summer 1988, left 27 Com-

that was better than most observers had expected after a dismal performance by M Marchais's hand-picked candidate for the presidential contest a few weeks earlier.

Unkindly nicknamed "M Dupont" - France's version of Mr Smith - André Lajoie combined an utter lack of charisma with creaking slogans about class struggle. He halved the party's share of the vote to less than 7 per cent.

M Lajoie has paid the price, but the second-raters who obediently toe the Marchais line today have little more to offer an electorate that has long forgotten, or could not care about, the days when the communists were France's largest single party. In the National Assembly, they can usually be relied upon to back the minority socialist government in a crunch. Even when the worm turned and the party's deputies voted with the conservative opposition in the recent

censure motion, it was not quite enough to defeat Michel Rocard's administration.

To judge by recent opinion polls, the communists would be unwise to bank on securing 10 per cent of the vote. Although the party claims a membership of 600,000, some inside observers put the true figure at about a quarter of that.

Hard times, yet on the surface M Marchais, a burly, heavy-browed figure with a taste for sharp tailoring, remains unworried, shuffling his faithful from one key post to another.

The louder the "renovators" clamour for some response to the collapse of orthodox communism in Eastern Europe, the more tenaciously the French hierarchy seems to be wedded to doctrines of the past.

No wonder the wits say President Gorbachev would have no chance of being accepted as a party member here.

Woodrow Wyatt

ALAN COREN

discovered recently when the polls put her far behind, the only sin in the modern Tory party is to be perceived as a loser.

Ann Murray, the constituency agent, says Hickmet — formerly MP for Scunthorpe, where he was beaten in 1987 — has decided not to seek the nomination because of pressure of business and for personal reasons. More to the point, it seems, he would have had little chance when the Eastbourne association meets in February to select a candidate who, barring a miracle, will win back the seat. Nor is Hickmet likely to find favour with any other Tory association in a winnable seat. As another prominent Conservative discovered recently when the polls

Not that, given that the analysis is based on a photo of Major waving outside Number 10.

But serious political pundits will be interested in *Psychic News's* analysis of Major's bio-rhythms. A "triple critical period" from January 12 to 15 is predicted in the run-up to the Gulf deadline, while a general election in early May should be ruled out because Major will be "prone to error" between May 3 and May 10. However, the portents are good for the week after.

Mail chauvinists

With the long-arranged week of loan-arranged

Sir John's outburst trails the outspoken comments he promises in his autobiography, to be published in May, in which he will muse on what he regards as the recent damage inflicted on the museum he served for 36 years. He blames Armstrong for the shake-up instigated by the present director, Elizabeth Esteve-Coll, which resulted in the resignation of a mass of staff.

nobody seems to know the exact time of Major's birth on March 29, 1943 — essential information for a truly professional birth chart — Peter West finds that the stars reveal "a leader with good ideas, and ambitious nature". What else, given the the position of the Sun "in pioneering Aries"?

Major's "youthful look", needless to say, comes from "Venus in Taurus", but Tory hardliners will

May should be ruled out because Major will be "prone to error" between May 5 and May 10. However, the portents are good for the week after.

Mail chauvinists

With the conclamation last week of long-arranged independence talks, Lithuania has struck at least one of the targets of Soviet oppression.

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Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number - (071) 782 5046.

Reach for the star — and the tatty fairy



Twinkle, twinkle: Paul Dyson tops his tree with a hand-made star
Tradition is fighting modernism at the top of the Christmas trees of leading designers

NOWHERE are those who care about design more deeply divided than over what to stick on top of the Christmas tree. Should the modern tree be dressed with monochromatic restraint or joyful vulgarity? For some, only the traditional fairy will do, charming with her slightly *outré* tatinness; for others, the modern designer-tree cries out to be finished with some custom-made object, stylishly eccentric.

The interior designer Nina Campbell is firmly in the tatty fairy camp (although for some reason, fairies are now almost universally referred to as angels). Christmas at her Chelsea home will be strictly traditional.

"My elder daughter, who is 17, and I have decided that good taste trees are incredibly bad taste," Miss Campbell says. "I much prefer something for the top that's been around a long time; until this year we always had an angel that my children's nanny and I made 17 years ago. But she has finally fallen apart. I have bought a gold archangel from the United States, with a wonderful wired gold dress that sticks out."

The dress designer Caroline Charles also has an angel: hers is antique, handed down from her mother — "much loved, even though the gold bits have mostly worn off". Failing a convenient angel heirloom, she favours "anything made, rather than bought, especially something natural, made with berries and holly".

David Milner, the interior designer, tops off his tree with a different object each year, "but always something one of the children has made — either an angel or a star cut out of paper". Failing that, he would follow the current fashion for Christmas tree bows: "I would tie a big tartan or red bow with trailing ends right at the top — as full as possible; trees are lovely if they are overdone."

Paul Dyson, the former display

manager for Harvey Nichols and visual merchandising director for Harrods, now runs his own visual merchandising business. He always has a big tree at his Islington house. "I put a star on top, about 14 inches across, and made of that honeycombed foam stuff now used as ceiling plaster material. I bought mine at Sandersons. I have stuck thousands of little diamante stones all over it, and made an outer ring of glass icicles, to look like rain. I like my tree with real candles, and the star sparkles beautifully."

Simon Wilson, of the jewellery designers Butler & Wilson, is decorating the 12ft tree in his Chelsea house entirely in gold. "At the top I shall have a huge gold

bow, made of the paper ribbon that florists use. I like things that are home-made."

Stars are best, says Nicholas Haslam, the artistic director of the FSI Group of design consultants. He suggests making up a bundle of tiny white lights to make one that twinkles. "Alternatively you could have a bunch of gilded fruit — little pine

apples and cherries sprayed gold."

David Shilling, the designer best known for his hats, is not having a tree himself because his house is too small, but suggests other people might use jewellery. "I don't think people should have non-biodegradable rubbish. Jewellery is a good investment. Diamonds are best, then rubies. Emeralds are too subtle."

The dress designer Bruce Oldfield will not be having a tree either — "damned messy things, shedding their needles everywhere". With a mind to recession, he suggests making a "Blue Peter"-type star and writing positive thoughts on it. We must revive the Dunkirk spirit and talk ourselves out of this depressing recession."

What sort of thoughts? Mr Oldfield could not think of any.

GERALDINE BEDELL

Subtle message in a bottle

Anthea Gerrie reveals the shape of things to come in the new age of smell

In the fragrance industry, 1990 will be remembered as the year sledgehammer scents slipped out of fashion, heralding the return of subtler, more romantic fragrances. We are at the end of the era when knock-em-dead-in-the-boardroom potions such as Giorgio and Poison were thought to be as necessary a part of a woman's armour as shoulder pads, and are moving into times when fragrance resumes its traditional role as an instrument of self-expression.

This also promises to be an age of spectacular bottle design, producing new collectables that will one day be considered as classic as the Chanel No 5 flask on show in New York's Museum of Modern Art. The newest vary from those as spare as Chanel's, celebrating its seventieth birthday next year, to richly embellished flights of fancy.

Vicky Tiel, an American designer, has chosen a seductive bottle to contain her first fragrance. Venus rises in the form of a crystal, naked-lady stopper, which, despite a precedent discovered in museum research, was at first pronounced technically unfeasible by modern glass producers. Nevertheless, an investment of millions in custom-moulding brought it forth, with a complementary eau de parfum flacon around whose frosted blue sides Venuses disport themselves in bas-relief.

The fragrance incorporates what are claimed to be rare aphrodisiacs and, like the sexy creations Ms Tiel makes in Paris for customers such as Ivana Trump and Sophia Loren, is intended as a man-trap.

More subtle in approach but no less lavish in presentation is the rich bouquet of flowers, fruit, musk and vanilla from Kenzo, the Japanese-born designer, which recently arrived in department stores. His pleasing pebble-shaped bottle has a wild rose and a peony rising high above the stopper in frosted bloom. It is impossible to carry, so a flat, flower-sculpted glass stone has been fashioned for the handbag version.

Portability is always a problem with fragrance, particularly full-strength perfume housed in crystal, which requires an inordinate amount of cushioning in a disproportionately large box. An ingenious solution comes from a leading "nose", Guy Robert, the creator of scents for Rochas, Hermès and Dior.

Mr Robert's Exclusively Yours line is a custom-blending operation that allows a woman to create her own formulation, taking into consideration her fragrance preferences and skin chemistry. It comes packed for supersonic flight or Everest backpacking expeditions in a crystal flask, protected by a saug leather trunk.

Presentation is crucial, as was demonstrated last year by the attempt to resurrect another Guy Robert confection, Madame Rochas. The new owners correctly identified an early-Sixties revival and decided to relaunch the smell of 1960, but changed the familiar packaging to new colours which apparently failed to evoke any associations.

Classics of past decades owe their success



Goddesses with a lot of bottle: the new aphrodisiac-laced scent by Vicky Tiel has frosted blue Venuses on the eau de parfum flask

in part to an unforgettable bottle — Nina Ricci's L'Air du Temps springs immediately to mind, with its Lalique dove stopper, and Baccarat's Mitsouko bottle, as appealing now as when it was unveiled by Guerlain 80 years ago. Guerlain is famous for its beautiful bottles, many designed by members of the family, but the diluted versions of its fragrances have been committed to standardised packaging, which lacks the charm of the perfume flasks.

Packaging integrity throughout the line has been preserved by the Italian house of Byblos, which draws inspiration from the

rich, jewel tones of the apothecary's counter for its clear cobalt and aquamarine bottles with chocolate fondant stoppers. Fruit, flowers, pepper and musk combine to produce a pleasing scent which, like the containers, embodies a certain modern audacity. But none of this year's containers is quite as audacious as the heart, with what looks like a protruding aura for a stopper, created by enfant terrible designer Christian Lacroix for his C'est la Vie fragrance.

The world's best-seller continues to be Chanel No 5. Its popularity must be due partly to the imagery of Marilyn Monroe

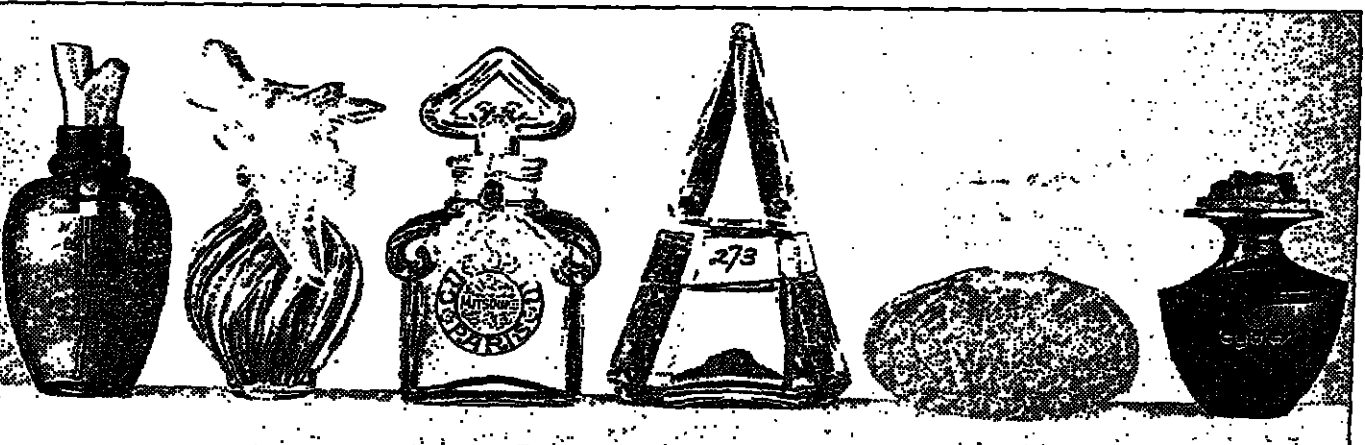
slipping between the sheets, but there is also something inherently pleasing about a simple bottle with plain, bold graphics. The same packaging principles have been applied to Chanel's new man's fragrance, Egoïste. Both No 5 and Egoïste are helped along handsomely by the expensive and dramatic commercials that Chanel makes with the money it saves on packaging.

One of the most striking of the newer packages is the heavy crystal pyramid housing a perfume called 273. Jet-setters will recognise this as the Beverly Hills telephone prefix, but it is also the Rodeo Drive address of its founder, Fred Hayman. This Swiss-born fashion retailer has produced a strong but ladylike scent redolent of gardenia and expensive nights out.

Budget-minded shoppers can take comfort from the fact that there are many ways to give fine fragrance other than the traditional ounce of perfume for £150. Eau de parfum is a strong enough concentration even for night-time, and perfumed bath oil is the next best thing to the pure essence. Where they are available, soap, talc and body lotion are delicious underpinning.

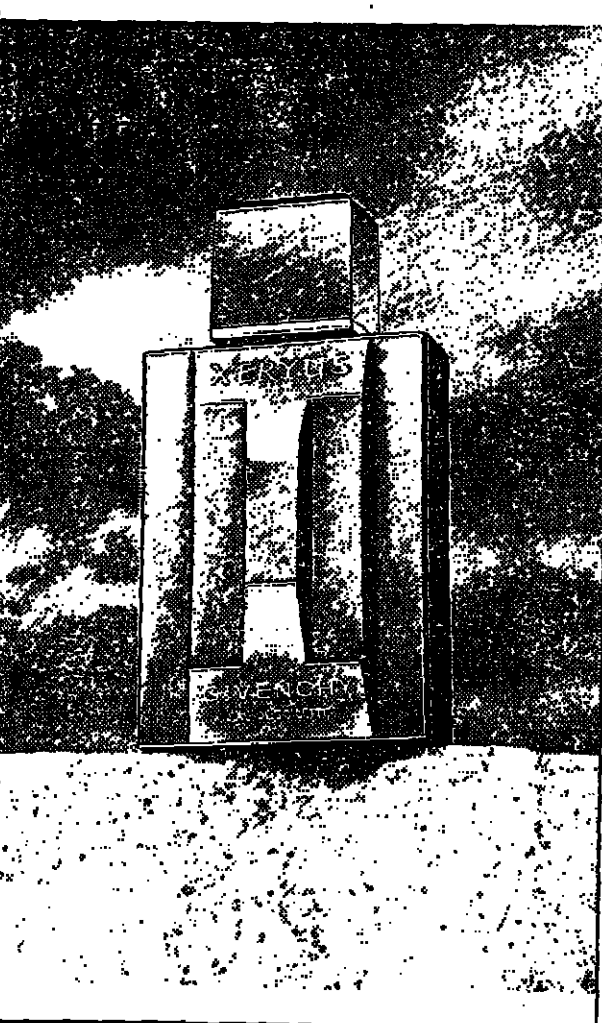
One final note of caution — never buy a huge scent bottle unless its prime function is as a dressing-table ornament. The fragrance will have evaporated long before its user can manage to splash her way to the bottom.

● Vicky Tiel and Exclusively Yours are sold only in Harrods; 273 and Byblos are exclusive to Harvey Nichols. Other fragrances in leading department stores and perfumeries nationwide.



Classy glass: (from left) C'est la Vie, L'Air du Temps, Mitsouko by Guerlain, Fred Hayman's 273, Kenzo's pebble, and Byblos

Happy XERYUS



G I V E N C H Y

Nostalgia by the sackload

Santa is back where he belongs this year as Christmas cards play safe

AFTER a brief fling with more contemporary forms of transport in recent years, Santa will be back in his sleigh this Christmas. Not because the jolly chap has acquired a fashionable concern for his Arctic environment, but because Santa's travelling habits have been shaped by market forces.

"We've tried to put him on a bicycle and a spaceship," says Sheila Sanders, a spokeswoman for Hallmark, the greetings card giant, "but at the end of the day, the big sales are at the traditional end of the market."

Santa's reunion with his reindeer reflects the return to cosy traditionalism in the design of Christmas cards over the past two years. "People have had enough of the trendy stuff and want the familiar symbols of Christmas again," Ms Sanders says.

With annual sales of more than £230 million from 1.5 billion cards (more than half the total number of cards sold all year), the Christmas card market is understandably conservative, although designers took something of a walk on the graphic wild side in the mid-Eighties.

Watercolours and crayon drawings gave way to line drawings and modern graphic designs, and the traditional Christmas symbols were frequently stylised almost beyond recognition. Santa went high-tech. "It's very difficult to change Christmas, but the airbrush did it for a while," says Michael Woodward, an artists' agent whose stable of 120 painters produces artwork

for many of the big card manufacturers and charities. Now his artists make a comfortable living again churning out Victorian Christmas scenes.

The first Christmas cards were sent in 1846 by one Henry Cole (later a founder of the Victoria & Albert Museum), who had forgotten to write to his acquaintances before Christmas. The practice took off in a big way just before the turn of the century, and few people have seen any need to modernise the imagery. So global warming or no global warming, Christmas 1990 will still be a white one — at least on paper.

MANUFACTURERS confidently expect snow scenes (incorporating landscapes, animals and coaches) to remain their position at the top of the Christmas image ratings. Santa should cling to the number two spot, according to Stuart King of Carlton cards, followed by children and family scenes, one of which adorned Henry Cole's first card in 1846. Robins, Old Masters and religious scenes bring up the rear.

Some pundits are putting their money on an entirely new image for a surprise entry at number one in the league next year, however. Those pestilential teenage mutant reptiles have donned Santa outfits to adorn a range of cards published by the happy licence-holders, Gemma designs. Have a cowabunga Christmas and an awesome new year.

IAN KATZ

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LET IT THROUGH THE TIMES

Source: NRS Oct 1989 - Sept 1990

Mass production of a golden egg?

Where is the spark in today's unimaginative pantomimes? Jim Hiley asks if theatres are missing the chance to make new friends

Every Christmas, our theatre briefly recaptures its lost glory as a medium of mass entertainment. Children's plays, musicals and variety shows bring the family parties flocking, but pantomime remains the favourite attraction by far. Critics tend to stay aloof from *Dick Whittington* and *Sleeping Beauty*. For hard-pressed managements, though, pantomime offers a financial life-line.

Yet the average production seldom exploits the possibilities of theatre with verve or imagination. The decor may be lavish, but the plots are curiously sketched, amid a spell-breaking plethora of topical gags, television catchphrases and irrelevant but songs. The theatre is most popular when at its least original — or so it seems.

Regional rep companies can earn up to 25 per cent of their annual box-office income over Christmas, and strive to make the most of the seasonal bonanza. The Citizens' Theatre, Glasgow, mounts eight productions every year, but its annual pantomime — widely regarded as one of the best in the land — accounts for a third of all performances.

"If our panto was a flop," explains the Citizens' co-director, Giles Haverall, "we would have to slash the rest of the programme." But, unlike other ventures, pantomime appears immune from box-office failure.

"Managements know they're likely to do well," says the impresario, Paul Elliott. "So they rely on the profits to sustain them through the difficult months between new year and spring." He should know; he is Britain's busiest commercial producer of pantomimes, with 18 on offer this year, from *Babes In The Wood* at His Majesty's in Aberdeen to *Cinderella* in Plymouth's Theatre Royal.

Though often described as "traditional", contemporary pantomimes bear scant resemblance to the 19th-century originals. Among the pioneers of the early Victorian era was James Robinson Planché,

who plundered the fairy tales of Perrault for "burlesques" or "extravaganzas". Planché wrote for one Madame Vestris, a celebrated male impersonator, who ran the Royal Olympic Theatre among the brothels and drinking dives of Wych Street, north of the Strand. As befitted this location, Planché's scripts were crafted with adult audiences in mind.

His work has been kept alive at the Players' Theatre, a music hall beneath Charing Cross station where the audience still toasts Queen Victoria every night. Currently, the theatre is staging Planché's *Puss In Boots*, which was first performed in 1837, with Madame Vestris playing the hero, Ralph. It is a far cry from today's lumbering hybrids. The score is based largely on Rossini, and the rhyming text boasts a profusion of *jeux-de-mots*.

"People often visit our pantomimes twice," says Disley Jones of the Players' Theatre. "They don't get all the jokes the first time. It requires a certain amount of intelligence."

The appeal of pantomimes widened as great performers like Dan Leno took them into larger, more salubrious theatres, including Drury Lane. By the 20th century, the form was being stretched to accommodate non-theatrical celebrities, not least from the sporting world. As a young soccer star, Brian Clough could be seen in pantomime, displaying his skills with a tennis ball. In Paul Elliott's current production of *Jack and the Beanstalk* at Bradford, Ian Botham plays the King, while Tessa Sanderson appears as Girl Friday in *Robinson Crusoe* at Guildford. Elliott insists that such "personables" adapt readily to the extrovert — and strictly non-Stanislauskan — acting style.

"It's fun for the audience to see these people, as long as we don't make them look stupid. Ian Botham doesn't need to be trained at RADA, and nobody expects Tessa Sanderson to sing an operatic aria. Panto has to be eccentric. We British are famous for it."

At the Glasgow Citizens', Haverall commissions a fresh script and score every year. Here, preparations begin early: he has been working on the current production of *Mother Goose* since March. His cast includes two actors from *Take the High Road*, but Haverall insists that they have been chosen for their talent, not their TV connections. By custom, every member of the pantomime cast comes from north

of the border, and it is hard to find many Scottish actors who have not appeared in the tartan soap opera.

At most theatres, the Christmas show has little connection with the rest of the repertoire. By contrast, Haverall says that his pantomimes have been essential to the creation of a distinctive house style. The hallmarks of a Citizens' production are visual extravagance and a high-definition performance technique, for which the likes of *Mother Goose* provide a useful training ground.

"The characterisation is always strong, and the energy is hurled out into the back of the upper circle," Haverall also claims that authentic pantomime has more in common with Shakespeare and

She's as magic as a Goose can be

As any Goose can be



Mother Goose at the Citizens' Theatre, Glasgow: one of the few theatres which commissions a fresh script and score every year

Many actors appear in the same show at different provincial theatres year after year, often with the same costumes and decor. Elliott has exhausted one production of *Aladdin* annually since 1974. Each outing requires months of planning, he says, though only ten days are allowed for rehearsals.

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"The characterisation is always strong, and the energy is hurled out into the back of the upper circle," Haverall also claims that authentic pantomime has more in common with Shakespeare and

Brecht than do the realist dramas of contemporary playwrights. For anyone familiar with his output, this hypothesis does not seem far-fetched. But then, the Citizens' is an exceptional company, standing far apart from the British mainstream.

Haverall must also be taken seriously when he talks of pantomime's special responsibilities. He and Elliott point out that most children receive their first taste of theatre at Christmas, so pantomime plays a big role in cultivating the audiences of the future.

But how effectively does it fulfil this task? If it spreads a life-long passion for theatre among the population, why have attendances fallen so far over the past 150 years? Children tire of pantomime

very quickly. As they grow up, they seem disinclined to find out what else the local playhouse has to offer. Too many British adults steer clear of theatre — except when they take the kids to a pantomime, of course.

The situation will only change when Christmas shows have all the vigour and inventiveness of musical drama at its best. Pantomime could transport us to a realm that is uniquely theatrical. Instead, it evokes a haphazard world of pop videos, sitcoms and the latest teenage mutant movie craze, with scraps of fairy tales and audience participation thrown in to keep the purists happy. Over Christmas, the theatre basks in popular affection. At the same time, it sells itself perilously short.

THE migration of Russian dancers continues apace. Galina Menteva, one of the Kirov Ballet's leading ballerinas, is joining Scottish Ballet, making her Scottish debut on Saturday December 29 as the Sugar Plum Fairy in Peter Darrell's version of *The Nutcracker*.

Meanwhile, another Kirov dancer, Irina Chistiakova, is joining London City Ballet for three guest appearances in the title role of *Cinderella*, which opens at Sadler's Wells tonight. London City Ballet already has two ex-Kirov principal dancers, Victor Barykin and Stanislav Tchassov, one of whom will dance the Prince during the London run. Catch them quickly — both are said to be thinking of moving again.

A COLLABORATION between King's College, Cambridge, and the Cambridge Darkroom — a photography-based art gallery in the city — has led to the appointment of the artist/photographer David Ward as artist-in-residence for 1991. Ward will develop his own work, give lectures and seminars, and hold open studio days. His work over the past ten years will be exhibited at both the Cambridge Darkroom and King's next month.

THE arts world's preparations for 1992 should be considerably eased by the publication of what is said to be the first Europe-wide directory of performing arts organisations. The *Performing Arts Yearbook for Europe 1991* spreads its net from Moscow to Galway, taking in some 7,000 opera, dance and theatre companies, orchestras, venues, festivals promoters and broadcast organisations. The *PAYE* is published by Arts Publishing International (071-247 0066) at £24.

OF COURSE, it is always fascinating to see drawings by masters such as Ingres, Delacroix and Rodin, but response to them has little surprise in it. The show of 19th-century French drawings at Hazlett, Gordon and Fox (071-930 6422) has that kind of expected pleasure, but also many splendid surprises: wonderful realistic drawings by Albert Lebourg and a fine portrait by one Emile Boetzel. Ends today.

Rush to catch the Russians

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Last chance...

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RADIO

Far from muted maestro of mime

THE sole word heard on the soundtrack of Mel Brooks' film comedy *Silent Movie* comes from the garishly painted mouth of Marcel Marceau. That word is "Mute". The joke, such as it is, still works: the only one of Brooks' guest stars to earn his crust through mime is the only one to speak, and in speaking he refuses to participate in the making of the film. Haul him kicking and screaming into Broadcasting House, however, and one has a different kettle of kippers.

On yesterday's *Third Ear* (Radio 3), the most celebrated mime of the modern age made up for lost time. The interviewer Ken Rea had only to venture an apparently blameless prompt on one aspect of Marceau's illustrious

career for the great man to belittle into a bottomless whirlpool of words. One would hate to be stuck in a lift with Marceau for fear of drowning in his torrential sentences, freighted with a would-be charming floss of French.

"But can mime be political?" Well, can it? Perhaps Rea should share the blame for taking his guest — "a blend of humour and pathos" — seriously. It swiftly became evident that Marceau has been told once too often that he is a Great Artist rather than a talented dumb actor, and that this presumed stature gives him licence to hold forth without a shred of wit. Gogol, Molière, Shakespeare, even Montaigne — all contributed to his glowing self-portrait of a man who dedicates

his energies to evoking "the human condition". Whenever one hears that vacuous phrase one should stand up at the back of the hall and shout: "Charlatan!"

The voluble mime, the shy master of ceremonies and the sad clown are types that supposedly redress overweening character traits. Saturday brought another: the obvious secret agent. Trying to blend into the woodwork of Tokyo's airport, James Bond could not help blurting: "If this is the mysterious East give me Sauchiehall Street on a wet Saturday." In a desperate attempt to render his person less scrutible, he downed buckets of sake, ate a live lobster and disguised himself as a deaf and dumb Japanese coalminer, all without benefit of a crash

course from Marcel Marceau.

The great value of *Yeu Only Live Twice* (Radio 4) was to demonstrate, if proof were needed, what a wretched scribbler Ian Fleming was. Frise the dialogue from the page and put it into the mouths of even such accomplished players as Michael Jayston and you have an undercurrent of unintentional hilarity which the Sean Connery films turned to good advantage but which, in this first ever radio adaptation, went begging. After commending a waitress's "very presentable bottom", Bond blotted his copybook by announcing that "the zip's gone out of life." Send for the invisible mender.

MARTIN CROPPER

RECORDS: CLASSICAL

Spirited trilogy

Berlioz: *L'Enfance du Christ*. RPO/King's College. EMI 7 49935 (2 discs).

An Old Song Re-Sung. Hampson/Guzelmann. EMI 7 54051 2.

Schubert Edition Vol 9. Auger/Johnson. Hyperion CDJ33009.

FOR Berlioz, and all latter-day Romantic unbelievers, Stephen Cleobury and the Choir of King's College, Cambridge, offer a welcome Christmas gift: the complete "trilogie sacrée", *L'Enfance du Christ*. Its tiny, single-scene tableaux open out like the doors of an Advent calendar. Revealed are the childlike *Marche narrative* of the Roman guard, most delicately played by the Royal Philharmonic; the long, brooding aria of the dreaming Herod (David Wilson-Johnson); and the stable duet of Mary and Joseph (Ann Murray and Thomas Allen), lit by a choir of angels straight out of the stained-glass of King's.

The choristers of King's, in their best, gently inflected legato, are responsible for the famous "Shepherds' Farewell". But the seduction of its Gallic pastorate, drone and all, has tended to eclipse the little oasis scene which follows.

Robert Tear takes the narrative persuasively through to this point of rest with its aqueous strings and piping oboe.

Long before the *Intifada* was ever thought of, Berlioz made his own subtle and seasonal plea for peace in a little accompanied recitative pointing to the compassion of the Ishmaelites who, in his telling of the tale, are the ones that finally open a door to the Israelite family. Matthew Best is the Palestinian father; Gerald Finley's Polydorus and William Kendall's Centurion contribute equally eloquent cameos.

A more secular Christmas surprise is offered by Thomas Hampson, whose *Old Song Re-Sung* has been released just in time for the stocking. But, be not deceived, this collection of Ameri-

can concert songs is far more than a mere filler. The American baritone, in the very prime of his vocal life, shows that the Missouri can flow just as powerfully in his voice as Schumann's or Mahler's Rhine. He gives each song, be it the Anglo-American "The Road to Mandalay" or the potent anti-slavery meditation of "Darling Nellie Gray", a different persona, as well as his undivided attention and concentration.

What is more, he has the confidence, both vocal and artistic, to make sentimentality a valid sentiment in its own right. His control of melodic shape and dynamics in "Roses of Picardy" is as consummate as if he were singing Schubert. And he dares to mock only when a song sends itself up, as in the delightfully valedictory "Long ago in Alcala".

Finally, it has fallen to Arleen Auger to provide the Christmas-tide volume of Hyperion's and Graham Johnson's continuing and valuable Schubert Edition. This time, a chance discovery (in a Viennese second-hand bookshop, of a little 1812 pocketbook of operatic life in the city) inspired Johnson to assemble and, of course, accompany, a selection of songs with operatic and theatrical inspiration.

Auger responds keenly to the challenge of the dramatic cantatas which, together with her mellifluous performance of "The Shepherd on the Rock", dominate this disc. She could roll her "ts" rather more convincingly in the little Italian *canzonette*, which Schubert wrote for a voice pupil of his. Her sense of scale and subtle virtuosity, though, in the three piano arrangements which Schubert made of extracts from his own operas, redeems the disc, and makes this recital a worthy addition to an important series.

HILARY FINCH



Julius Bryant with English Heritage's new acquisition, "View from the Cascade Terrace, Chiswick"

MUSEUMS

National finders and keepers

THE recent acquisition by English Heritage of its most expensive painting, George Lambert's "View from the Cascade Terrace, Chiswick", is largely thanks to the efforts of another acquisition: its first head of museums. He is Julius Bryant, who spotted the picture in a Sotheby's New York catalogue before its sale was published here, and did the rounds of the National Heritage Memorial Fund, the National Art Collections Fund and the London Historic House Museums Trust to make sure the money was available.

He bought it, in the end, for £200,000. It will be the first thing visitors see when they enter Chiswick House, one of the four great London houses that are now under Bryant's curatorial care.

"While national museums are cutting back on staff and spending, we're expanding into the museum world," said the 33-year-old Bryant, who was formerly a curator at the Victoria and Albert Museum. "In a way, English Heritage is the biggest museum of them all, with six million objects stretching from Lindisfarne Priory to Osborne House." On the advice of a team of national museum directors, including Sir David Wilson of the British Museum and Neil Cossons of the Science Museum, a new museums division has been set up with Bryant and a staff of 76.

English Heritage owns about 400 heritage sites, 80 of which hold unusual objects, from a VI flying bomb and a collection of wallpaper designs to the mummified

Julius Bryant, English Heritage's head of museums, explains his aims to Simon Tait

sed heart of a medieval princess (having to be reburied for legal reasons).

Bryant is having to recruit a team of curators whose first job will be to bar-code each item and put its video image into a computer. Eventually, members of the public will be able to have access to an illustrated inventory of all six million pieces.

Another of his early tasks is to sort out a dispute about "fake furniture" in the London houses which English Heritage inherited from the disbanded Greater London Council in 1986: Marble Hill, Rangers House, Chiswick House and Kenwood. It was decided to refurbish the houses in the appropriate period as far as possible, but since the actual furniture was long gone, the only way to proceed, it was thought, was to buy facsimiles. The heritage lobby was furious.

"I found a way round it, however," said Bryant. "We can't have the actual objects, but we can have nearly the same things from the period by keeping our eyes on the auction houses. In the meantime, we can work on the soft furnishings, much easier and

cheaper to reproduce, and just as important in making the house look right."

Chiswick House and its grounds are being restored with the help of the local authority, Wilham Kent designed the furniture for it, and at Phillips earlier this year, Bryant picked up, for £28,000, a pair of Kent chairs made for Chiswick. He also acquired a painting by Kent of an allegorical figure holding a portrait of Inigo Jones (the hero of Lord Burlington, architect and owner of Chiswick House) for £1,870 at Christie's, and a George Knapp portrait of Burlington's daughter, for £1,650.

The refurbishment of Kenwood's grounds has caused local outrage, which Bryant smartly side-stepped by putting on an exhibition in the house. "I spent £50,000 on the exhibition because I was sick of being blamed for everything. In reality, it is the various users of the grounds who are in conflict with each other, not us. In this exhibition, we set the problems before them with the options, and asked them what they thought we should do." The exhibition, which ended on December 2, was very successful, with over 5,000 questionnaires returned.

Meanwhile, back at Chiswick, the Lambert painting is not only an appropriate decoration, but is a fine record of the architectural achievements of both Kent and Burlington, giving landscape conservationists a good idea of how the original scene was made. "Yes, rather a good find, that picture," comments Bryant.

Why parents need more power

Child labour in the US

Christmas games

TURTLEMANIA TO ECOMANIA

Ted Wragg's guide to opting out

All this and much more in The TES this Friday

THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

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BBC 1

- 8.00 **Caspar**
 8.30 **BBC Breakfast News** with Nicholas Witchell and Alan Titchmarsh
 9.00 **Daytime UK** with Alan Titchmarsh and Judi Spens in Birmingham and Adrian Mills in Manchester preview the morning's events
 9.00 **News**, regional news and weather
 9.05 **Brainwave**, Leisure and lifestyle quiz hosted by Andy Craig 9.25
 10.00 **Day of the Day** from the Rev Roger Cressley 9.30 **People Today**, Phone-in about music matters, and another assignment for Matthew Collins
 10.00 **News**, regional news and weather
 10.05 **Children's BBC** introduced by Simon Parkin begins with Playdays (10.30) **Bunbury**, Cartoon (10.35) **People Today**, includes, at 10.45 **Health UK** in which Martin Lewis consults Clare Rayner on advice she would give to a young woman facing large family gatherings and all the accompanying stresses and strains. Plus tips about how not to over-indulge during the festive season
 11.00 **News**, regional news and weather
 11.05 **Kilroy**, Robert Kilroy-Glik hosts a studio discussion 11.15 **Before Noon**, More calls from viewers and the **Brainwave** quiz winner
 12.00 **News**, regional news and weather
 12.05 **Robert Kilroy-Glik's Diet and Fitness Club**, advice on getting into shape 12.20 **Scene Today**, Live from Pebble Mill, with Alan Titchmarsh and Judi Spens 12.55 **Regional news and weather**
 1.00 **One O'Clock News** with Philip Hayton, Weather
 1.30 **Neighbours**, (Ceebeak) 1.50 **Going for Gold**, European quiz game

BBC 2

- 8.00 **News**
 8.15 **Westminster**, A round-up of business from both houses
 9.00 **Year in the Life: The First Christmas**, Episode one of a three-part mini-series that traces an event-filled year in the life of an American family (10.30) **After Hours** includes an interview with MTV video-jockey, Julie Brown
 10.50 **The Travel Show** (10.55) **The Enthusiast**, Celebrates the life of John Betjeman. Celebrates his tribute to the late Sir John Betjeman (11.20) **See Hear!** (1.20) **Greenclaw** (1.35) **Under Seal**, Two aspects of Portugal's seafaring history (1.55) **A Carol from Ely**, Once in Royal David's City, sung at Ely cathedral
 2.00 **News** and weather followed by **Show Jumping**, Highlights of last week's action at Olympia
 3.00 **News** and weather followed by **Westminster Live** 3.50 **News**, regional news and weather
 4.00 **Behind the Headlines**, Robert Robinson and Loyd Grossman are joined by TV-am presenter Maya Even and broadcaster and author Shyama Perera
 5.00 **Advice Show** focuses on the plight of runaways
 5.30 **The Travel Show**, Penny Junior with the concluding part of her guide to southern California (Ceebeak)
 6.00 **Film: Geronimo** (1962) starring Chuck Connors. Exciting western drama about Geronimo and his hand of Apache braves who, after surrendering to the US Army in return for a promise of land and food, are cheated out of their supplies. Directed by Arnold Laven

2.15 Film: The Long Hot Summer (1958)

- First of a two-part made-for-television adaptation of William Faulkner's classic novel about Ben Quick, a drifter with a reputation for trouble. Set in the quiet southern town of Frenchman's Bend, Ben's arrival is most unwelcome, especially when he finds favour with one of the town's most respected families. Starring Jason Robards, Don Johnson and Cybill Shepherd. Directed by Stuart Cooper. (Part two on Thursday at 12.15pm)
 3.50 **Forget-Me-Not Farm** 4.05 **The Chipmunks**, Cartoon 4.20 **Happy Families**, *Miss Jump the Jockey*, part two. Comedy series about the card-game characters 4.35 **Now Then**, An introduction to the world of archaeology. Tony Gregory and Paul Barber visit a dig at Flag Fen near Peterborough and find out what life was like in the area 3,000 years ago
 5.00 **Newsround** 5.10 **Grange Hill**, Last episode in the drama about life in a London comprehensive school. (10.30) **Neighbours**, (Ceebeak) 1.50 **Going for Gold**, European quiz game

7.40 Days of Fear: Days of Rage

- CHOICE: The Guyana-born writer Mike Phillips, who has lived in Britain since 1954, reflects on the contradiction between Europe as a centre of culture, civilisation and democracy and its treatment of immigrants. His report opens in Barcelona, where cultural icons such as the cathedral, the university and the palace form the backdrop to an immigrant's bitter charge that the city is trying to rid itself of its black population. The film then moves to 1992. Stories from Berlin and London further illustrate Phillips's argument that for 40 years, immigrants, refugees and guest workers have helped to rebuild European economies, only to be dumped when they are no longer in demand. In Berlin the position of Turkish workers is threatened by the arrival of refugees from eastern Europe following unification. Asians and Africans who arrived in Rome to beat Italy's ban on immigration are stranded without papers or rights. (Ceebeak)
 8.30 **Food and Drink Christmas Special**, Michael Barry shows how the family can give mother a day off from the kitchen over the festive period. Plus Nick Brett, editor of the *Radio Times*, presents the prizes to the winner of this year's *Masterchef* competition
 9.00 **Phil Coe**, A comedy special written by and starring the rubber-faced comedian, Phil Coe
 9.50 **The Sentence**, CHOICE: Jeff Perks's documentary on the Glen Parva Young Offenders Institution comes to a close with vital decisions for the inmates who have become the unwitting stars of the series. On second thoughts, perhaps not that

- for Christmas but finds herself short on provisions when the trader people set her down. It is a case, or bottle, of post-pornography to the rescue (10.30) **Neighbours**, (Ceebeak) 1.50 **Going for Gold**, European quiz game
 3.30 **A Question of Sport**, David Coleman hosts the light-hearted sports quiz. The teams are led by regulars Bill Beaumont and Ian Botham with guests runner Tom McKean, footballer Ian Wright, swimmer Zara Long and Wayne Sheppard, former captain of the All Blacks. (Ceebeak)
 9.00 **News** with Michael Buerk, (Ceebeak) Regional news and weather
 9.30 **Never Come Back**, Compulsive drama set in the early days of the second world war. In this, the second of two parts, journalist Desmond Thane (Nathaniel Parker) has been tortured and nearly killed for reasons he does not understand and now he has to prove that he is not a murderer. Also stars James Fox (10.30) **Neighbours**, (Ceebeak) 1.50 **Going for Gold**, European quiz game
 10.45 **Film** 90 with Barry Norman. Barry casts his critical eye over *Almost an Angel* which stars Paul Hogan as a dead burglar who returns to earth as an angel. The *Seinfeld* series in New York about the latest *Rocky*, his fifth, and what the movie business has in store for the muscle-bound actor
 11.15 **Spenser: For Hire**, American series starring Robert Urich as a tough Boston private eye. An investigation into the murder of a young woman, shot dead at the wheel of her car, leads Spenser to a corrupt evangelist whose interest in the victim seems suspicious
 12.00 **Weather**, *Wales*, *Film* 90 with Barry Norman 12.30 **News** and weather

- unwitting, for Perks has cunningly structured *The Sentence* in the form of television soap opera with its ability to develop characters through running stories. Over the past few weeks we have got to know more and more about the bespectacled homesick Smith, and perhaps come to sympathise with him, and we want to be told his fate. The same applies to Wilson, who mysteriously absconds only two days before he is due for parole and is due to face the governor. Turning from form to content, the question that has occupied the series is how effective the system is. Part of the answer emerges tonight
 10.20 **283 Useful Ideas from Japan**, Another instalment revealing some more quirky and novel aspects of Japanese life
 10.30 **Newsnight**
 11.15 **The Late Show** investigates how the Holocaust has been portrayed in the cinema and interviews directors Marcel Cehula, Louis Malle and Costa-Gavras 11.45 **Weather**
 12.00 **Behind the Headlines**, See 4.30. Ends at 12.35am

ITV LONDON

- 6.00 **TV-am**
 9.25 **Keynotes**, Music quiz with Alastair Duff 9.55 **Thames News** and weather
 10.00 **The Time**, The Place. The last in the series of the topical discussion show
 10.40 **The Morning**, Family magazine show presented by Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley. Money and legal matters are under discussion with Anne Ashworth on hand to help with viewers' problems. Maggie Phelan is also giving advice on the best and worst of Santa's grottos in her festive edition of *Checkout*. Plus buying last-minute presents. Includes national and international news headlines at 10.55 and regional news at 11.55 followed by national weather
 12.05 **Rod, Jane & Freddy** with traditional nursery rhymes 12.25 **Home And Away**, Australian soap about a couple and their families on a remote island 12.55 **Thames News** and weather
 1.00 **News at One** with John Suchet
 1.20 **Wish You Were Here**, 17 Judith Chalmers celebrates the 150th anniversary of Curlew with a Caribbean edition of the Curlew Countess, and there are visits to museums in London, Oxford and Hawking (1.50) **A Country Practice**, Australian drama set in a community health clinic in the outback
 2.20 **Take The High Road**, Scottish soap set in an eventful Highland village 2.50 **Talkback**, Game show hosted by Andrew O'Connor
 3.15 **News** Headlines 3.20 **Thames News** Headlines 3.25 **Thames News**, B-continent soap linking Australia with the north of England
 3.55 **Hudley Pig**, More animated adventures of the day-dreaming pig
 4.10 **The Dreamstone**, Cartoon fantasy serial charting the eternal fight between good and evil

- 4.35 **Sylvester**, Fun with the cat and the Canary (1)
 4.40 **Children's Ward**, Drama set in the children's ward of a hospital. Lee Jones welcomes the chance of a lucky transplant but it is not too late on the donor
 5.10 **Blockbusters**, Bob Holness asks the questions in the general knowledge quiz for teenagers
 5.40 **News at Four** (Oracle)
 5.55 **Thames Help** with details of the Housing Advice Switchboard
 6.00 **Home and Away** (1)
 6.30 **Thames News** and weather
 7.00 **Emmerdale**, Anne restores Joe's confidence when he finally receives a long-awaited letter from Kate. Nick and Lisa take in lodgers for Christmas, and an injustice is done when the Rev Charlton makes a slip over Seth's age. (Oracle)
 7.30 **Thames Reports: Essex Woman**, Teresa Gorman, Tony MP for Baleria, deplores the lack of women at the top of her party. Richard Gorman, the Wymore talks to British day-trippers to the French hypermarkets
 8.00 **The Bill: Out of the Blue**, Sun Hill is alive with gossip when Chief Supt Brownlow hears that DCI Wray and Cheryl Campbell are having an affair. (Oracle)
 8.30 **Strike It Lucky**, Michael Barrymore hosts the quiz show with the £3,000 jackpot
 9.00 **Scott: The Tender Trap**, In the last in the series, Ken finds himself in a way over his head when he takes on what looks like a simple case of adultery. A crippled ex-racing driver thinks his wife is having an affair and asks Boon to find proof. Starring Michael Elphick, Cheryl Campbell and Alan Rickman. (Oracle)
 10.00 **News at Ten** with Julia Somerville and Fiona Armstrong (Oracle) Weather
 10.30 **Thames News** and weather
 10.40 **Dress Gray**, First of a two-part drama about the scandal surrounding the Lynette S. Grant Military Academy after the death of a young



Holbrook (left), Bridges and Baldwin (10.40pm)

cadet. A sinister cover-up is engineered by the academy's commandant. Starring Lloyd Bridges, Patrick Cassidy and Hal Holbrook. Concludes tomorrow. Followed by *News* headlines
 12.30am **Prisoner**, Cell Block H. Australian drama set in a female detention centre for terminal cases
 1.30 **Video View**, *Marella Frostrup* presents the best in video to rent and buy during the festive season plus a review of the year which features clips of things that have not gone quite as planned. Followed by *News* headlines
 2.00 **60 Minutes**, Award-winning American news magazine
 3.00 **Donahue**, The chat show host talks to people who have dramatically walked out on the partners. Followed by *News* headlines
 4.00 **Entertainment UK**, The last weekly guide to the latest in entertainment from all over the country
 5.00 **ITN Morning News** with Anne Leathers. Ends at 6.00

have taken place and said the police had forced him into testifying. The judge was furious that a case had been brought on so little evidence. This carefully researched documentary pieces together the background to the trial and looks at allegations that the trial was an attempt by the FBI and the Catholic hierarchy to blacken Father Lynch because of his public support for gay and lesbian rights. Carrying interviews with all the main participants, including Father Lynch and the boy, the film throws disturbing light on how the law, politics and morality can become dangerously mixed
 10.00 **Film: The Girl** (1979), Powerful and emotional story with Gary Frank playing a sailor who returns to his boyhood home in Brooklyn during Christmas leave. Anticipating active service in Korea, he goes home to try to formalise his relationship with his girlfriend and gain a more meaningful relationship with his hard-drinking father. He fails in the first but, through coming to terms with his sadness about his girlfriend, finds he gains the strength to deal with his father's rejection. Glenn Ford puts in a strong performance as his gravely father. With Julie Harris and Allison Argo. Directed by Don Taylor
 11.45 **Soul Survivor**, Second documentary about Father Bernard Lynch in which he talks about how he maintains faith in a God who allows so much suffering
 12.15am **Lonesome Pine**, The last in the series features Zachary Richard and the Zydeco Rockers. Ends at 1.25

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 **Sing and Swing** with jazz stars of the Thirties and Forties (1)
 6.20 **Business Daily**
 6.30 **The Channel Four Daily**
 9.25 **The Art of Landscape**, Relaxing music and natural images
 11.00 **As It Happens**, Richard Johnson and a camera crew spend the week in Israel to look at life there
 12.00 **The Parliament Programme**
 12.30 **Business Daily**
 12.50 **Business Daily**
 2.00 **Third Wave**, The series for older viewers looks at a group of senior members of German society who have formed their own political party. (Teletext)
 2.50 **Film: The Constant Husband** (1954), The second of Rex Harrison films continues with this lively comedy in which Harrison is an amnesiac who discovers that he is a multiple bigamist. With Margaret Leighton, Kay Kendall, Cecil Parker, Nicole Murray and George Cole. Directed by Sidney Lumet
 4.30 **Fifteen-to-One**
 5.00 **Noah's Ark**, A portrait of Grey's Glacier in the extreme south of Chile (1)
 5.30 **Same Difference**, This last in the series of programmes presented by Libby Cross and Mark Todd which examines issues affecting disabled people, looks at Voluntary Service Overseas, and the Mouth and Foot Painting Artists group

- 6.00 **A Different World**, Another comic visit to Hinton College
 6.30 **Vic Reeves' Big Night Out**, Vic hosts his last show in the season and demonstrates what to do with unwanted bark (1)
 7.00 **Channel 4 News** with Jon Snow and Corinna Badway. (Teletext)
 7.50 **Comment** followed by *Weather*
 8.00 **The Great Mogul: Aurangzeb** - The Fall of the Empire. Bamber Gascoigne looks at the fall of the Mogul Empire (1)
 8.30 **Sufism: The Heart of Islam**, Last in the series looking at the traditions of Sufism
 9.00 **A Priest on Trial**, CHOICE: In 1989 Father Bernard Lynch, an Irish Catholic priest, appeared in a New York court accused of sexually abusing a 14-year-old boy. After a week of the trial, the priest was acquitted. The supposed victim could not even remember the year in which the offence was alleged to



The accused: Father Bernard Lynch (8.00pm)

TV VARIATIONS

- ANGLIA**
 As London except: 6.25pm-7.00 *Anglia News* 7.30-8.00 *Anglia Reports* 1.00pm *Prime Time* 1.30-2.00 *Anglia News* 2.30-3.00 *Anglia Reports* 4.30-5.00 *Anglia News*
BORDER
 As London except: 1.50pm *A Bush With A View* 2.20-2.50 *Border News* 3.10-3.40 *Home and Away* 3.50-4.20 *Border News* 4.30-5.00 *Border News* 5.10-5.40 *Home and Away* 5.50-6.20 *Border News* 6.30-7.00 *Border News* 7.10-7.40 *Border News* 7.50-8.20 *Border News* 8.30-9.00 *Border News* 9.10-9.40 *Border News* 9.50-10.20 *Border News* 10.30-11.00 *Border News* 11.10-11.40 *Border News* 11.50-12.20 *Border News* 12.30-1.00 *Border News* 1.10-1.40 *Border News* 1.50-2.20 *Border News* 2.30-3.00 *Border News* 3.10-3.40 *Border News* 3.50-4.20 *Border News* 4.30-5.00 *Border News* 5.10-5.40 *Border News* 5.50-6.20 *Border News* 6.30-7.00 *Border News* 7.10-7.40 *Border News* 7.50-8.20 *Border News* 8.30-9.00 *Border News* 9.10-9.40 *Border News* 9.50-10.20 *Border News* 10.30-11.00 *Border News* 11.10-11.40 *Border News* 11.50-12.20 *Border News* 12.30-1.00 *Border News* 1.10-1.40 *Border News* 1.50-2.20 *Border News* 2.30-3.00 *Border News* 3.10-3.40 *Border News* 3.50-4.20 *Border 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BUSINESS

TUESDAY DECEMBER 18 1990

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

Arrest after shares enquiry

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

AT LEAST one person has been arrested in connection with a scheme involving invalid share certificates in Cantors, the furniture group. The person was being questioned by City of London Police Squad at Bishopsgate station last night.

The share certificates are believed to have been forged. Cantors said it had become aware that invalid share certificates for the company's A non-voting ordinary shares had been discovered.

A statement from Cantors said: "Transfers lodged with the registrars and purporting to effect three large transactions were accompanied by such invalid certificates. The matter, which emanates from a source outside the company, is being investigated by the appropriate authorities."

The transactions, which came through more than one stockbroker, came to light at the end of last week, when Barclays Registrars discovered the names on the certificates did not match those on the shareholders' register. The International Stock Exchange, the police and The Securities Association were alerted.

Mr Nicholas Jeffrey, chief executive of Cantors, said the statement had been issued as soon as possible to allow other shareholders to check their certificates. The size of the attempted dealings is not known, nor is it clear if anyone has lost any money. Cantors A shares stayed at 113p and the ordinary shares at 70p.

HK Bank and Midland drop merger plans

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT, AND LULU YU IN HONG KONG

MIDLAND Bank and the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation have abandoned their merger plans.

Hongkong Bank is instead reorganising itself into a British-registered holding company to quell fears about its future after 1997 when the crown colony is due to be handed back to China.

In a joint statement, the banks said it was not the right time for a "closer structural association". They blamed difficult economic conditions and the uncertain state of financial markets.

All the Hongkong Bank shares will be transferred to a new British-registered holding company, HSBC Holdings plc, and shareholders will be offered one share in the new company for every four in the bank. The bank's listings in Hong Kong and London will be replaced by HSBC.

William Purves, the Hongkong Bank chairman, said HSBC would be managed and controlled in Hong Kong, and be subject to regulation by the colony's banking commissioner. As a non-resident company of Britain, however, it would not be liable to British tax on income and gains derived outside Britain.

overseas regulators, banks and investors. The concerns on their part may be misplaced, but they cannot be ignored," he said.

Analysts expected plans for the Midland merger to be called off, but were surprised by Hongkong Bank's swiftness in finding a loophole in the form of an overseas holding company.

"The message is clear, despite what the bank is saying. It is a thinly disguised act of no-confidence in Hong Kong and there will be much psychological reaction in the short term," said Mr Vincent Kwan, banking analyst with Shearson Lehman Hutton.

Hongkong Bank is not renewing the standard agreement on the 14.9 per cent stake it took in Midland three years ago. This leaves it free to sell the shares after the agreement expires on Saturday.

But despite this, the bank said it was a "supportive and long-term" Midland shareholder. Hongkong Bank has suffered a book loss of more than £180 million on its investment in Midland.

The banks also said they would continue their joint ventures, including business cross-referrals and staff secondments.

Sir Kit McMahon, Mid-

land's chairman, said neither bank was ready to merge. "A merger of this size would have needed an awful lot of management time and neither of us felt we could support that over the next 12 to 18 months," he said.

The economic downturn has caused a collapse in profits and a surge in bad debts at both banks.

"The move would have been dangerous," said Sir Kit. "You cannot push an idea through, come what may."

Midland is struggling to make a profit this year, after heavy bad debt provisions.

In 1989, Midland made a pre-tax profit of £616 million before write-offs against Third World debt. After write-offs, it suffered a £216 million loss.

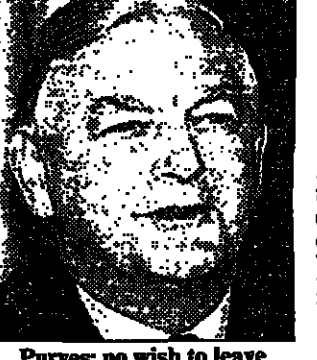
Hongkong Bank recently announced a 21 per cent profit fall to HK\$1.53 billion (£101 million) for the year to end-June.

Sir Kit did not rule out a merger in the future once the banks had recovered from their present downturn. "A lot of work has been done," he said, "and the relationship is strong. But we are not counting on a merger like pie in the sky. It is there in the background."

Sir Kit added that he "absolutely did not believe" the Hongkong Bank would merge with anyone else.

But John Gray, Hongkong Bank's finance director, said they would look at other partners in Europe. "We still need a third leg to our stool."

In the City, analysts said Midland was now vulnerable to a takeover. While many candidates have been discounted, a large European bank might be attracted to Midland's strong position in British retail banking.



Purves: no wish to leave

Comment, page 23

Nadir sent to Brixton prison after failing to meet record £3.5m bail

By ANGELA MACKAY



ASIL Nadir, the chairman of Polly Peck International, the fresh fruit, electronics and hotels group, was held overnight in Brixton prison after he failed to meet his record bail of £3.5 million.

Mr Nadir faces 18 charges of theft and false accounting amounting to more than £25 million. Fourteen of them relate to PPI and Unipac Packaging Industries, a wholly-owned subsidiary based in northern Cyprus, and the remaining four concern false accounting in PPI cash books.

The Turkish-Cypriot businessman, who in 20 years built PPI from a small East End clothing concern into an international company with businesses in Britain, America, Japan, Turkey and northern Cyprus, was arrested at Heathrow on Saturday, on his return from Turkey, and charged late on Sunday.

At Bow Street magistrates' court, Sir David Hopkin, the chief supervisory magistrate, Sir David Hopkin, granted bail of £3.5 million, of which £2 million was a cash deposit from Mr Nadir, and £1.5 million from up to five sureties. Mr Nadir is due to reappear in court on January 28.

But by late afternoon, the sureties had not been sent and Sir David refused an offer to release Mr Nadir into the care of a partner of his solicitors until the money arrived.

The magistrate accepted a pledge for £500,000 from Ayesha, Mr Nadir's ex-wife, which she said could be paid for by the sale of jewellery and antiques, but Sir David rejected a £450,000 offer from Tijen Atun, Mr Nadir's niece, who said she would have to sell her home. Sir David said an offer of £250,000 from Mr

Nejat Ugursal, a long-standing family friend, was unsuitable but he could reappear today. Further bail offers will be heard at Bow Street from noon today.

Proceeding for the Serious Fraud Office, Lorna Harris opposed bail and said the charges were complex. However, Sir David accepted the offer made by Edward Jenkins, Mr Nadir's counsel, to make the cash deposit and sureties of up to £1.45 million. Sir David increased the amount of surety to £1.5 million.

Conditions of bail specify Mr Nadir should live and sleep at his address in London's West End, and that he should report daily to Savile Row police station.

Sir David also ordered Mr Nadir to surrender "all passports, British and otherwise," adding that he was not "to apply for any fresh travel documents, including air or rail tickets or anything."

Wearing a navy suit, Mr Nadir stood silently during most of the hearing, which lasted about 15 minutes.

PPI, Mr Nadir's company, is in the hands of administrators who were called in after the company's 70 bankers were owed £1.3 billion. Richard Stone, of Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte, one of the administrators, said Mr Nadir's arrest was unfortunate and not helpful to their job of achieving the reconstruction and survival of the group.

The administrators said a big proportion of the cash reportedly held on deposit in Cyprus had been invested in property, largely hotels, on the island and in Turkey.

Charges in full, page 24

Southern climbs

Southern Water has raised its interim dividend by almost 18 per cent on the back of an 18.5 per cent rise in pre-tax profits over the pro forma figure from its privatisation prospectus a year ago. *Tempos, page 21*

Gestetner ahead

Gestetner (Holdings), the office equipment group, announced pre-tax profits up from £36.2 million to £52.1 million in the year to end-October. A final 6.4p dividend raises the total from 7.0p to 8.1p. *Tempos, page 23*

THE POUND

US dollar	1.9290 (-0.0110)
German mark	2.8675 (-0.0134)
Exchange index	932 (-0.3)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share	1690.2 (-11.0)
FT-SE 100	2157.9 (-10.5)
New York Dow Jones	2585.89 (-7.92)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave	24087.91 (-261.59)
Closing Prices ...	Page 25
Major indices and major changes	Page 22

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 14%	
3-month interbank 14 1/4%	
3-month eligible bills 13 1/4-13 3/4%	
US: Prime Rate 10%	
Federal Funds 7 1/4%	
3-month Treasury Bills 6 5/8-6 7/8%	
30-year bonds 10 1/2-10 5/8%	

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£/\$ 1.9290	\$/£ 0.5189
£/DM 2.8675	DM/£ 0.3489
£/Sfr 2.4575	Sfr/£ 0.4069
£/FFr 16.7501	FFr/£ 0.0600
£/Yen 258.84	Yen/£ 0.0039
£/Indr 252.2	Indr/£ 0.0039
£/ECU 1.710432	ECU/£ 0.5843
£/A\$ 1.407584	A\$/£ 0.7104

GOLD

London Fixing:	AM \$376.85 pm \$376.30
Close \$376.80-377.10 (\$195.00-195.50)	
New York:	Comex \$377.55-378.05

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jan)	\$27.45 bbl (\$27.70)
Denotes latest trading price	

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.55	2.45
Austria Sch	21.15	19.95
Belgium Fr	66.30	68.30
Denmark Kr	11.58	10.88
Finland Mk	10.12	9.56
France Fr	10.15	9.56
Germany DM	3.00	2.82
Greece Dr	319	299
Hong Kong \$	15.58	14.78
Ireland P	1.181	1.091
Italy Lira	2265	2130
Japan Yen	337	317
Netherlands Gld	11.76	11.06
Norway Kr	265.50	249.50
Portugal Esc	200.48	189.48
South Africa R	190.50	178.50
Spain Ptas	166.38	154.38
Sweden Kr	11.28	10.58
Switzerland Fr	2.27	2.11
Turkey Lira	5000	4500
USA \$	2.015	1.910
Yugoslavia Dnr	35.00	31.00

Rates for small denomination bank only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.

Retail Price Index: 199.0 (November)

Rate fears undermine the pound

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

STERLING was weak on foreign exchanges after a gloomy Confederation of British Industry trends survey forced market operators to think of a cut in base rates soon.

Stirling closed in London at DM2.8675 yesterday, a fall of 1.34 pence from its closing rate on Friday, reducing the possibility of an early monetary easing.

It retreated against the dollar too, ending at \$1.9290, a fall of 1.10 cents, reflecting the firming of the American currency after the US and Iraq postponed plans for direct talks. On its trade-weighted index, the pound finished 0.3 lower at 932.

The Bank of England is clearly unhappy, though not alarmed, about sterling's weakness, a point made by Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the Governor, on television on Sunday.

In spite of intensified pressure on the government to cut interest rates to prevent the recession deepening, money market rates firmed by as much as 1/8 point, with the key three-month rate closing at 14 1/4 per cent. But the market was thin and confused, suggesting no serious upward pressure on base rate.

Paul Chertkow, chief currency strategist at Citibank, said the pound was in the "pre-Christmas doldrums".

GEC sued by Hughes Aircraft

By WOLFGANG MUNCHAU

GENERAL Electric Company (GEC), the electronics group, is facing a lawsuit from The Hughes Aircraft Corporation alleging GEC helped sabotage Hughes's bid to build radar systems for the European Fighter Aircraft (EFA).

Hughes, a subsidiary of General Motors, has filed its suit in a federal court in Los Angeles and is seeking damages worth at least \$600 million on the grounds that GEC and four related companies have entered into allegedly broken a confidentiality agreement and improperly used Hughes's technologies.

GEC and Hughes were originally part of a consortium led by Telefunken System Technik, a Daimler-Benz subsidiary, to provide a radar system largely based on Hughes's technology for the EFA, a new generation fighter aircraft that is being developed by a four-nation European consortium.

In January, GEC-Marcconi bought Ferranti Defence Systems, which was leading a competing consortium on the basis of its own ECR 90 system. GEC Ferranti Defence Systems won the contract in May amid a dispute between the German and British governments.

GEC yesterday rejected the charges and said they would be vigorously defended. The company said: "Our legal department received the papers from Hughes this morning, and they will be carefully studied. We believe there is no truth in the allegations."

The radar contract is estimated to be worth well over £1 billion to Ferranti and will provide about 2,000 jobs until the end of the decade.

However, these calculations were based on the original assumption that the EFA would eventually go into production, when it was estimated that Britain, Germany, Italy and Spain, the four participating countries, would together buy 765 aircraft.

However, doubts are growing over this after German government sources indicated Germany will pull out of the project after the completion of the prototype in 1992.

If this decision is confirmed, it might jeopardise the entire project.

The EFA, which is to replace the existing Tornado fighter aircraft, involves four European companies: British Aerospace and Deutsche Aerospace, a Daimler-Benz company, with a stake of 33 per cent each, Aeritalia with 21 per cent and CASA of Spain with 13 per cent.

The German government has come under increasing pressure to scrap the project altogether, the cold war having ended and because of the rising costs for unification.

Levitt's passport held before his arrest

Comment, page 23

CHASE Manhattan Bank obtained an order which deprived Roger Levitt, the chairman of the Levitt financial services group, of his passport well before the bankrupt businessman was charged on Thursday with two counts of theft totalling £665,000.

As part of his conditions of £500,000 bail, Mr Levitt was told to surrender his passport to Clifford Chance, the solicitor, by a magistrate on Friday.

Clifford Chance, which acts for Chase Manhattan and not Mr Levitt, already held Mr Levitt's passport pursuant to an ex-parte order made in camera initiated by Chase.

Mr Levitt borrowed £16 million from Chase to buy a 20 per cent stake in his financial services group from LIT. This stake was later divided into four equal parts and sold to Chase, Legal & General, General Accident and Commercial Union for up to £7.35 million each.

Meanwhile, some investors who took out insurance policies and pension schemes via the Levitt Group, which went into liquidation last week, have discovered discrepancies after checking with insurance companies which invested the money. One man who had invested in an executive pension plan through the Levitt Group has discovered a £500,000 shortfall.

The man, who is near retiring, had invested in the fund for years. After hearing that the Levitt Group had gone into liquidation, he checked with the insurance company to be told the company valued the fund at £500,000 less than he had paid. The whereabouts of the missing money is not known and the investor spoke yesterday to the Serious Fraud Office and the liquidators.

Shanks merges with Rechem

By MARTIN BARROW

SHANKS & McEwan and Rechem Environmental Services have confirmed they are to merge, forming a waste disposal company with an anticipated market capitalisation of more than £400 million.

The merger involves an all-shares offer by Shanks for Rechem, supported by Rechem directors, who speak for 42.4 per cent of the company. Investors are being offered one new Shanks share for every two Rechem shares, with a partial cash alternative.

The offer values Rechem shares at 646.5p, against a suspension price of 574p last Thursday, and the entire com-

pany at £171.6 million. Shares in Shanks, suspended at £12.93, returned at £12.35 and fell to £11.88.

Shanks' main business is the collection and disposal of waste in landfill sites round the country, and the treatment of bulk liquids. Rechem specialises in the treatment of toxic chemical waste and has incinerators at Pontypool, Gwent, and Fawley, Hampshire, near the Esso refinery.

Directors of Rechem will hold 7.6 per cent of Shanks' enlarged equity base, having agreed not to sell their shares before January 1992. Richard Biffa, the Rechem chairman, will become deputy chairman of the enlarged company. Malcolm Lee will continue as

managing director of Rechem and join the main board.

● Caird Group, the waste disposal company that survived a £78 million bid by Severn Trent this year, has denied that it will be unable to honour dividends due to preference shareholders, adding that distributable reserves would also cover dividends for ordinary shareholders. The company has named John Ashton, formerly group finance director of Coats Viyella, as non-executive chairman. A group finance director is being sought to replace Christopher Parker, who will remain as company secretary and treasurer.

Banking on Rechem, page 23

ARROWS TOP 1000 COMPANIES 1991

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Telephone: 061-441 2500. Telex: 660952. Arrows G. Fax: 061-928 6948.

Ensuring life after the Turtles

By JONATHAN PRYNN

MUTANT Turtles may come and go, but Tom and Jerry are for ever. Mosaic Investments, the holding company that owns the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle copyright throughout Europe, is lining up the venerable cat and mouse double act to fill the gap left when the Turtle star begins to wane.

Next year is the 50th anniversary of the cartoon series, an event expected to be accompanied by a massive product merchandising campaign. Among other long-running and reliable performers in the Mosaic stable are Dennis the Menace and Desperate Dan. Not yet in the same longevity league but still showing remarkable staying power are the characters from the musicals, *Cats* and *Starlight Express*. Mosaic also owns

Wildlife Fund, the organisation for the preservation of endangered species.

Despite announcing interim pre-tax profits up 74 per cent to £3.35 million and a halfway dividend increased by 19 per cent to 3.5p for the six months to end-October, the company's interim figures include only a small contribution from the Turtle star.

Royalties from the Turtle name are calculated only every three months, so Christmas sales will not be known until the end of March. Mosaic typically takes between 1 per cent and 2 per cent of the take. However, with high streets reporting roaring sales of almost any goods bearing the animated amphibians' name, analysts are pencilling in £9 million pre-tax profits and up to 20 per cent earnings growth for the full year.

Convenient Promotions, the character merchandising deals, adult rather than childish pursuits may provide the biggest long-term growth potential for the group, which owns one of the leading manufacturers of spirit optic dispensers. With all pubs and restaurants in Britain required to meet new imperial optic measure specifications by the end of next year and to convert to metric measures two years after that, analysts are forecasting massive growth in the spirit market.

British negotiators may decide fate of Pan Am and TWA

By HARVEY ELLIOTT
AIR CORRESPONDENT

SIX British civil servants could this week decide the fate of Pan Am and TWA, the American airlines. In talks at the Department of Transport on Thursday and Friday, the British negotiators will be asked to scrap rules forbidding new airlines to operate to and from Heathrow airport and, by so doing, allow United Airlines to take over Pan Am's operations there and American to replace TWA.

If they fail to act now, their American counterparts will warn, Pan Am might be forced out of business within weeks and TWA may follow within months. Whitehall is unlikely to be moved by the pleas from America, where fears are growing that spiralling fuel prices and a worldwide recession could lead to the collapse of several leading airlines.

Robert Crandall, the chairman of American Airlines, said his plans to buy TWA operations to Heathrow and to expand to Gatwick and Stansted depended on the British government agreeing to substitution at Heathrow.

He added: "We are only asking for the substitution of one carrier for another. It would be fundamentally unreasonable of the British government to decline."

To change the rules, however, requires by law a period of consultation. When this is complete, by the middle of January at the earliest, Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary, will be asked to make recommendations to Parliament, which, if accepted, will lead to full talks. The desperation of the Americans has handed British negotiators an ace in their efforts to reach agreement over improved access to American markets by British airlines.

Services between Britain and America are governed by a bilateral agreement known as Bermuda Two, which limits the number of routes airlines on either side can fly. British Airways says the agreement is unfair and that it should be able to operate to more American cities than it does, operate internal flights in America and be able to buy a large slice of an American domestic carrier. All such pleas have fallen on deaf ears because the American government was anxious to protect its airlines from what it saw as unfair foreign



Deliberating on Heathrow's future: Malcolm Rifkind

competition. With Pan Am and TWA in trouble, the balance of power has switched.

United Airlines says that if it is to hand over £205 million to Pan Am for Heathrow facilities, United must be allowed to substitute its aircraft on the routes now flown by Pan Am. Last night, American laid down the same conditions over its bid to buy TWA's European routes. If the transport department sticks to

the rules and waits for consultation to run its course, it runs the risk of being accused of killing off two leading American airlines. If the government gives way, there will be an outcry from other airlines, including Virgin Atlantic, Cathay Pacific and Air New Zealand, who will say they too should be allowed in. Heathrow could not cope with the added capacity the new routes would generate.

'Going concern' doubt at Zurich

By MATTHEW BOND

SHARES in Zurich Group, the troubled property and motor dealing company, fell 2p to 4p as the company posted two sets of poor results.

In the year to end-January, the company made a pre-tax loss of £9.3 million, compared with a pre-tax profit of £3.5 million the year before. Michael Dee, chairman, said the results had been qualified by Touche Ross, the auditor, on two points - Zurich's status as

a going concern and the carrying value of parts of the group's stock, work in progress and current asset investments.

The full-year losses were struck after the company made exceptional provisions of £6.6 million against the value of certain property developments, and wrote off a further £1.5 million of previously capitalised interest. Mr Dee said the company no longer intends to capitalise interest. He also announced that the company was in talks with its advisers to look at ways of raising new capital.

Last December, four directors were forced to resign. Sal Lalani, who replaced Robert Noonan, former chief executive of Marter Estates, as chairman, himself resigned three months later, and was replaced by Mr Dee.

In the six months to July, the company made a pre-tax loss of £1.5 million. There is no interim dividend, just as there were no dividends the year before.

Mr Dee said the interim losses reflected the continuing interest burden incurred on non-performing property development loans and the extremely difficult market conditions. The company has net borrowings of £18.7 million.

The company believes it has now written down property values realistically, Mr Dee added.

Margins fall at Worthington

AJ WORTHINGTON (Holdings), the textiles manufacturer and knitwear importer, saw its pre-tax profits rise from £217,000 to £234,000 but its profitability fell on a turnover of £3.58 million (1992 million) for the six months ended September 30.

As usual, there is no interim dividend, but the board hopes to pay a final at least equal to last year's 0.625p. Earnings a share eased from 1.7p to 1.5p.

Indifference to warning signs

From Dr Geoffrey Francis
Sir, Lloyd's, and therefore its "names", will somehow have to find some £6 billion-plus between now and 1992 in order to meet their impending claims liabilities.

Lloyd's seems strangely, some would say supremely, indifferent to the warning signs flashing in the form of 1989 year losses posted by the UK insurance companies in the wake of UK and European storms, US hurricane, California earthquake and US pollution/petrochemical claims. Worsening US liability and asbestos losses are now to be followed by US savings and loans, Gulf aviation and one or two bio-stock losses.

Under the arcane three-year accounting system, Lloyd's appears to wish to ignore the problems it is facing until 1992 and 1993. The burning question they seem unwilling to address is: where is the money going to come from?

Lloyd's "asset base" comprises 28,000-odd individuals who, far from parting with real cash, put up a notional degree of "unlimited liability" worth of £250,000 based on bank guarantees or life policies, the former normally secured on those Lloyd's members homes.

All this nominal "wealth" is backed by a Lloyd's central reserve fund of a paltry £400 million (soon to be increased to £1 billion), roughly equivalent to a mere fifth of the market capitalization of Commercial Union.

To add insult to injury, in the face of the claims armageddon of the coming few years, Lloyd's underwriting syndicates still merrily re-insure one another in a macabre, financial Russian roulette game of pass the parcel, presumably hoping that the "rob Peter to pay Paul" theory will somehow hold good.

Lloyd's faces not only the original losses from the 1989-90 disaster years, including the settlement of its own syndicate reinsurances, but also from reinsuring US and European companies' losses from these years.

It is not time that Lloyd's came clean over the whole issue before the credibility of the world's entire insurance industry suffers any further?

Yours faithfully
DR GEOFFREY FRANCIS
1517 NE 57th
Fort Lauderdale
Florida 33308
USA

Finding little support from Lloyd's Council

From Mr John Maxwell

Sir, Your editorial concerning the problems at Lloyd's (December 7) needed to explain that names are leaving in such large numbers because of the lack of concern of their interests shown by Lloyd's Council. A new member joining Lloyd's is interviewed by a committee and is assured that all business is done on the basis of "utmost good faith". It is that broken promise that finally disillusioned him. He is an innocent lamb waiting to be fleeced. A complaint to the council about concealment of vital information in a re-insurance contract brought a

reply from the chief executive which stated that:

a) such information did not have to be disclosed (so much for "utmost good faith")

b) it is up to the council to decide if such a complaint is investigated

c) the complainant does not have to be informed of the findings and

d) if there is justification for the complaint the council does not have to enforce restitution to the name.

A letter to the chairman of the council asking to delay a cash call in case of alleged fraud brought the reply that they have to protect the

smacks of the unprofessionalism to which your article alludes and which the new regulations are attempting to eliminate not before time. The new company will at least provide an opportunity to walk away from Lloyd's which at present is denied to any name with an open year. I suspect a large number of names will jump at the chance. That risk itself will provide the society with extra incentive to improve itself yet further if it wishes to survive a potential flood of resignations. The idea should be applauded for both those reasons.

Lloyd's has made and will continue to make a substantial

Government place in the queue

From Mr Thomas Dumont

Sir, Mr Page's view (Business Letters, December 11) that the government should go to the end of the queue was to a great extent shared by Sir Kenneth Cork and his committee.

They thought that the Crown's claim to general preference was wholly unjustifiable and, in the specific cases of VAT, NI and PAYE, should be substantially reduced from 12 months' back tax to three months' (paras 1409-1427). There has been no such reduction.

In time for the 10th anniversary of the Cork report, April 30, 1991, renewed pressure should be brought to bear on the government to go to the end of the queue, or at the very least adopt the Cork committee's recommendations.

Yours faithfully
THOMAS DUMONT
11 New Square
Lincoln's Inn, WC2

Letters to The Times Business and Finance section can be sent by fax on 071-782 5112.

Ensuring a way out

From Mr Henry Colhurst

Sir, I refer to your article Digging Deep for Lime Street (December 7); you imply that the proposed run-off reinsurance company will not provide any particular saving to names and that the "good old taxpayer" will in any case pick up part of the tab for the excesses, greed and lack of judgement of some Lloyd's syndicates.

I fail to see how anybody can expect a new reinsurer to accept liability for the "old years" at anything other than a premium equivalent to estimated losses. Such practice

is apathetic and so unwilling to accept responsibility, that we now must recognise the service as being as useless as it can possibly be, to anyone such as our company, who are aggressively chasing after exports.

By all accounts, deliveries in the UK have become equally lethargic.

Can any reader enlighten me as to the person we can make our complaints to, who may be remotely interested in the sudden decay in service?

Better still, is there any private company who would be keen to provide a better service, and who would take some responsibility for their actions?

An alternative would be if any Government department would like to investigate why we are struggling with such an inadequate operation, who are allowed to be so insulated from their responsibility to their customers.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID GUYETT,
Managing and export director,
DG Controls Limited,
Cadley Hill Road,
Swadincote,
Derbyshire.

Our experience of this new organisation called Parcel Force is that they are so

With a great deal of publicity, Parcel Force was launched upon us unsuspecting industrialists, as a splitting off from Post Office Letters, and suddenly we, who had relied upon the "Air Parcel Post" services, have found products, such as samples, often needed urgently by prospective customers, not being sent at the speed previously obtained by air, but taking ten or more weeks, which should be an expected maximum by Surface Mail.

It seems impossible to find anyone to whom one can complain, as Parcel Force blame delays straight away on to Post Office Letter Services, who are acting for them by sub-contract.

Yours faithfully,
THOMAS DUMONT
11 New Square
Lincoln's Inn, WC2

Letters to The Times Business and Finance section can be sent by fax on 071-782 5112.

Questions of liability

From Mr S.L. Sidkin

Sir, Following the coming into effect of Section 137, Companies Act 1989, the availability of liability insurance is being heavily promoted in response to the increasing burden on directors.

However, many companies should hold back from effecting directors' and officers' liability insurance until they have checked their memorandum and articles of association. There are two reasons for this.

First, whilst the Companies Act 1989 now permits directors' and officers' liability insurance, it is advisable to include suitable provisions in the memorandum and articles of association of the company to enable such insurance to be effected.

Second, under many articles of association, directors are prevented from voting on matters in which they have an interest. Accordingly if it was proposed to approve one insurance policy protecting all of the directors, none of the directors would be able to vote.

Yours faithfully,
S.L. SIDKIN,
Fox Williams,
City Gate House,
39-45 Finsbury Square, EC2.

contribution to this country's income from invisible exports, its names have paid substantial amounts of tax even when the tax rate was a mere 98 per cent. Tax relief is allowed already against underwriting losses, what substantial difference therefore will it make to the taxpayer if the relief is provided en bloc or over a period of time?

I suppose the taxpayer has forgotten who subsidised all that third world debt.

Yours sincerely,
HENRY N. A.
COLTHURST,
1 Wandale Road, SW17.

Postal block

From Mr David Guyett

Sir, Can I plead with other companies such as mine, who are pushing for export business as the very lifeblood of this country needs, to join me and write to anyone who will listen, about the appalling service we are now getting from Parcel Force.

With a great deal of publicity, Parcel Force was launched upon us unsuspecting industrialists, as a splitting off from Post Office Letters, and suddenly we, who had relied upon the "Air Parcel Post" services, have found products, such as samples, often needed urgently by prospective customers, not being sent at the speed previously obtained by air, but taking ten or more weeks, which should be an expected maximum by Surface Mail.

It seems impossible to find anyone to whom one can complain, as Parcel Force blame delays straight away on to Post Office Letter Services, who are acting for them by sub-contract.

Our experience of this new organisation called Parcel Force is that they are so

investments, for the period 1980 to 1989, show that annual income from these properties averaged a yield of 6 per cent per annum. These annual returns compared with income returns from equities and gilts of 4.7 per cent and 10.9 per cent respectively over the same period. I would hardly call the income return from property as plugging the gap, more a case of offering a slightly higher yield for an intermediate capital growth.

Authorised property unit trusts correctly aim to increase liquidity in the property

investment market, to allow individual investors to have the option of direct investment.

They should not, ahead of their launch, be regarded as an opportunity to realise high yields as well as capital growth normally expected from a long-term property investment.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON SHEPHERD,
Whiteburn Holdings Ltd,
56 Poland Street,
W1.

national investors, for the period 1980 to 1989, show that annual income from these properties averaged a yield of 6 per cent per annum. These annual returns compared with income returns from equities and gilts of 4.7 per cent and 10.9 per cent respectively over the same period. I would hardly call the income return from property as plugging the gap, more a case of offering a slightly higher yield for an intermediate capital growth.

Authorised property unit trusts correctly aim to increase liquidity in the property

investment market, to allow individual investors to have the option of direct investment.

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Power failure

From Mr J. S. Stephens

Sir, It is not necessary for investors in any limited liability company to be provided with the names of the directors of the company? The mini-prospectus sent to 7 million potential investors in the electricity distribution companies did not provide this information.

Yours faithfully,
J. S. STEPHENS,
Shelley, High Drive,
Oshott, Surrey.

Weighty matter

From Mr Vincent Saunders

Sir, I was thrilled to read in one of your columns that a certain Mr Levitt smoked only the finest Cuban Davidoff cigars, especially the Dom Perignon size, which retail at £335 per box of 25.

I am sure it will reassure the many investors, both private and public, in his Levitt insurance group, if you will now reveal enough of his very private life to demonstrate that he has traded down to Players Weights.

Yours faithfully,
VINCENT SAUNDERS,
3a Carthew Villas, W6

Shares in unbuilt golf club for sale

SHARES in a £6.5 million golf club scheme on the borders of Oxfordshire and Northamptonshire are being offered for sale today through Grant Thornton, the accountancy firm.

It is offering 555 shares in the Croughdon Elm Golf Club for £12,000 each plus £144 VAT. Three instalments of £4,048 are payable, with the first due immediately and the others in summer 1991 and spring 1992. The shares are being sold prior to construction of the golf course.

Bitter sales pitch

From Mr R. E. Poole

Sir, If Tempus (December 6, commenting on Bass results) really believes that "there are few signs out on the streets as Christmas draws close that people are drinking less" he has obviously not ventured as far as the streets of Berkshire. Offers such as three pints for the price of two, 20p off all bitter and lager on Wednesday nights and "happy hours" from 5.30 pm until 10 pm hardly support his belief.

Yours faithfully,
R. E. POOLE,
90 London Street,
Reading, Berkshire.

High initial yields not assured with property unit trusts

From Mr Simon Shepherd

Sir, Michael Boggis (Letters, December 11) writes that property unit trusts will plug the very large gap between low initial yields of equities and the high yields of cash deposit accounts or gilt funds. Whilst appreciating that in the current property investment market, relatively high initial yields are being achieved, this situation is not always so.

Data published by the Investment Property Data-bank, based on property held by many of the major institu-

national investors, for the period 1980 to 1989, show that annual income from these properties averaged a yield of 6 per cent per annum. These annual returns compared with income returns from equities and gilts of 4.7 per cent and 10.9 per cent respectively over the same period. I would hardly call the income return from property as plugging the gap, more a case of offering a slightly higher yield for an intermediate capital growth.

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W1.

The 18 charges of theft Nadir faced in court

ASIL Nadir faced the following charges at Bow Street magistrates' court on December 11:

On or about June 10, 1988, stole the sum of £6 million belonging to Polly Peck International contrary to section 1(1) of the Theft Act 1968.

On or about June 10, 1988, stole the sum of £8 million belonging to Unipac Packaging Industries contrary to section 1(1) of the Theft Act 1968.

On or about September 8, 1988, stole the sum of £2 million belonging to Polly Peck International contrary to section 1(1) of the Theft Act 1968.

On or about August 8, 1989, stole the sum of £4 million belonging to Polly Peck International contrary to section 1(1) of the Theft Act 1968.

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LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

	Index	Value	Daily chg (%)	Yearly chg (%)	Daily chg (p)	Yearly chg (p)	Daily chg (US\$)	Yearly chg (US\$)
London	4230	72	59	57	8	15	30	37
Paris	4230	73	60	57	8	15	30	37
Frankfurt	4230	74	61	57	8	15	30	37
Berlin	4230	75	62	57	8	15	30	37
Amsterdam	4230	76	63	57	8	15	30	37
Brussels	4230	77	64	57	8	15	30	37
Stockholm	4230	78	65	57	8	15	30	37
Copenhagen	4230	79	66	57	8	15	30	37
Helsinki	4230	80	67	57	8	15	30	37
Tallinn	4230	81	68	57	8	15	30	37
Riga	4230	82	69	57	8	15	30	37
Vilnius	4230	83	70	57	8	15	30	37
Kiev	4230	84	71	57	8	15	30	37
Moscow	4230	85	72	57	8	15	30	37
Novosibirsk	4230	86	73	57	8	15	30	37
Omsk	4230	87	74	57	8	15	30	37
Yekaterinburg	4230	88	75	57	8	15	30	37
Novokuznetsk	4230	89	76	57	8	15	30	37
Krasnodar	4230	90	77	57	8	15	30	37
Stavropol	4230	91	78	57	8	15	30	37
Cherkassk	4230	92	79	57	8	15	30	37
Kharkov	4230	93	80	57	8	15	30	37
Dnepropetrovsk	4230	94	81	57	8	15	30	37
Donetsk	4230	95	82	57	8	15	30	37
Luhansk	4230	96	83	57	8	15	30	37
Khmelnytskyi	4230	97	84	57	8	15	30	37
Chernivtsy	4230	98	85	57	8	15	30	37
Ivano-Frankivsk	4230	99	86	57	8	15	30	37
Uzhhorod	4230	100	87	57	8	15	30	37
Ukraine	4230	101	88	57	8	15	30	37
Poland	4230	102	89	57	8	15	30	37
Czech Republic	4230	103	90	57	8	15	30	37
Slovak Republic	4230	104	91	57	8	15	30	37
Hungary	4230	105	92	57	8	15	30	37
Romania	4230	106	93	57	8	15	30	37
Bulgaria	4230	107	94	57	8	15	30	37
Greece	4230	108	95	57	8	15	30	37
Turkey	4230	109	96	57	8	15	30	37
Italy	4230	110	97	57	8	15	30	37
Spain	4230	111	98	57	8	15	30	37
France	4230	112	99	57	8	15	30	37
Germany	4230	113	100	57	8	15	30	37
Sweden	4230	114	101	57	8	15	30	37
Norway	4230	115	102	57	8	15	30	37
Denmark	4230	116	103	57	8	15	30	37
Finland	4230	117	104	57	8	15	30	37
Sweden	4230	118	105	57	8	15	30	37
Norway	4230	119	106	57	8	15	30	37
Denmark	4230	120	107	57	8	15	30	37
Finland	4230	121	108	57	8	15	30	37
Sweden	4230	122	109	57	8	15	30	37
Norway	4230	123	110	57	8	15	30	37
Denmark	4230	124	111	57	8	15	30	37
Finland	4230	125	112	57	8	15	30	37
Sweden	4230	126	113	57	8	15	30	37
Norway	4230	127	114	57	8	15	30	37
Denmark	4230	128	115	57	8	15	30	37
Finland	4230	129	116	57	8	15	30	37
Sweden	4230	130	117	57	8	15	30	37
Norway	4230	131	118	57	8	15	30	37
Denmark	4230	132	119	57	8	15	30	37
Finland	4230	133	120	57	8	15	30	37
Sweden	4230	134	121	57	8	15	30	37
Norway	4230	135	122	57	8	15	30	37
Denmark	4230	136	123	57	8	15	30	37
Finland	4230	137	124	57	8	15	30	37
Sweden	4230	138	125	57	8	15	30	37
Norway	4230	139	126	57	8	15	30	37
Denmark	4230	140	127	57	8	15	30	37
Finland	4230	141	128	57	8	15	30	37
Sweden	4230	142	129	57	8	15	30	37
Norway	4230	143	130	57	8	15	30	37
Denmark	4230	144	131	57	8	15	30	37
Finland	4230	145	132	57	8	15	30	37
Sweden	4230	146	133	57	8	15	30	37
Norway	4230	147	134	57	8	15	30	37
Denmark	4230	148	135	57	8	15	30	37
Finland	4230	149	136	57	8	15	30	37
Sweden	4230	150	137	57	8	15	30	37
Norway	4230	151	138	57	8	15	30	37
Denmark	4230	152	139	57	8	15	30	37
Finland	4230	153	140	57	8	15	30	37
Sweden	4230	154	141	57	8	15	30	37
Norway	4230	155	142	57	8	15	30	37
Denmark	4230	156	143	57	8	15	30	37
Finland	4230	157	144	57	8	15	30	37
Sweden	4230	158	145	57	8	15	30	37
Norway	4230	159	146	57	8	15	30	37
Denmark	4230	160	147	57	8	15	30	37
Finland	4230	161	148	57	8	15	30	37
Sweden	4230	162	149	57	8	15	30	37
Norway	4230	163	150	57	8	15	30	37
Denmark	4230	164	151	57	8	15	30	37
Finland	4230	165	152	57	8	15	30	37
Sweden	4230	166	153	57	8	15	30	37
Norway	4230	167	154	57	8	15	30	37
Denmark	4230	168	155	57	8	15	30	37
Finland	4230	169	156	57	8	15	30	37
Sweden	4230	170	157	57	8	15	30	37
Norway	4230	171	158	57	8	15	30	37
Denmark	4230	172	159	57	8	15	30	37
Finland	4230	173	160	57	8	15	30	37
Sweden	4230	174	161	57	8	15	30	37
Norway	4230	175	162	57	8	15	30	37
Denmark	4230	176	163	57	8	15	30	37
Finland	4230	177	164	57	8	15	30	37
Sweden	4230	178	165	57	8	15	30	37
Norway	4230	179	166	57	8	15	30	37
Denmark	4230	180	167	57	8	15	30	37
Finland	4230	181	168	57	8	15	30	37
Sweden	4230	182	169	57	8	15	30	37
Norway	4230	183	170	57	8	15	30	37
Denmark	4230	184	171	57	8	15	30	37
Finland	4230	185	172	57	8	15	30	37
Sweden	4230	186	173	57	8	15	30	37
Norway	4230	187	174	57	8	15	30	37
Denmark	4230	188	175	57	8	15	30	37
Finland	4230	189	176	57	8	15	30	37
Sweden	4230	190	177	57	8	15	30	37
Norway	4230	191	178	57	8	15	30	37
Denmark	4230	192	179	57	8	15	30	37
Finland	4230	193	180	57	8	15	30	37
Sweden	4230	194	181	57	8	15	30	37
Norway	4230	195	182	57	8	15	30	37
Denmark	4230	196	183	57	8	15	30	37
Finland	4230	197	184	57	8	15	30	37
Sweden	4230	198	185	57	8	15	30	37
Norway	4230	199	186	57	8	15	30	37
Denmark	4230	200	187	57	8	15	30	37
Finland	4230	201	188	57	8	15	30	37
Sweden	4230	202	189	57	8	15	30	37
Norway	4230	203	190	57	8	15	30	37
Denmark	4230	204	191	57	8	15	30	37
Finland	4230	205	192	57	8	15	30	37
Sweden	4230	206	193	57	8	15	30	37
Norway	4230	207	194	57	8	15	30	37
Denmark	4230	208	195	57	8	15	30	37
Finland	4230	209	196	57	8	15	30	37
Sweden	4230	210	197	57	8	15	30	37
Norway	4230	211	198	57	8	15	30	37
Denmark	4230	212	199	57	8	15	30	37
Finland	4230	213	200	57	8	15	30	37
Sweden	4230	214	201	57	8	15	30	37
Norway	4230	215	202	57	8	15	30	37
Denmark	4230	216	203	57	8	15	30	37
Finland	4230	217	204	57	8	15	30	37
Sweden	4230	218	205	57	8	15	30	37
Norway	4230	219	206	57	8	15	30	37
Denmark	4230	220	207	57	8	15	30	37
Finland	4230	221	208	57	8	15	30	37
Sweden	4230	222	209	57	8	15	30	37
Norway	4230	223	210	57	8	15	30	37
Denmark	4230	224	211	57	8	15	30	37
Finland	4230	225	212	57	8	15	30	37
Sweden	4230	226	213	57	8	15	30	37
Norway	4230	227	214	57	8	15	30	37
Denmark	4230	228	215	57	8	15	30	37
Finland	4230	229	216	57	8	15	30	37
Sweden	4230	230	217	57	8	15	30	37
Norway	4230	231	218	57	8	15	30	37
Denmark	4230	232	219	57	8	15	30	37
Finland	4230	233	220	57	8	15	30	37
Sweden	4230	234	221	57	8	15	30	37
Norway	4230	235	222	57	8	15	30	37
Denmark	4230	236	223	57	8	15	30	37
Finland	4230	237	224	57	8	15	30	37
Sweden	4230	238	225	57	8	15	30	37
Norway	4230	239	226	57	8	15	30	37
Denmark	4230	240	227	57	8	15	30	37
Finland	4230	241	228	57	8	15	30	37
Sweden	4230	242	229	57	8	15	30	37
Norway	4230	243	230	57	8	15	30	37
Denmark	4230	244	231	57	8	15	30	37
Finland	4230	245	232	57	8	15	30	37
Sweden	4230	246	233	57	8	15	30	37
Norway	4230	247	234	57	8	15	30	37
Denmark	4230	248	235	57	8	15	30	37

[illegible]

1990		Price		Gross		Yld		P/E	
High	Low	Bid	Offer	Change	%	%	%	%	%
74
75
76
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141
142						

Exchange Index compared with 1985 was down at 93.2 (day's range 93.2-93.3).					OTHER STERLING RATES	
STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES						
Market rates for December 17						
	Range	Close	1 month	3 months		
New York	1,929.5-1,934.0	1,929.2-1,929.6	1.13-1.11p	2.81-2.78p	Argentine dollar**	2,517.0-2,655.0
London	2,228.4-2,241.9	2,235.1-2,240.4	0.58-0.60p	1.82-0.85p	Australian dollar	2,959.5-2,940.0
Paris	3,222.0-3,231.0	3,227.0-3,231.0	1.1-1.1p	1.1-1.1p	Bahrian dir.	2,450.0-2,476.0
Brussels	50.26-50.84	50.26-50.81	25-25p	82-85p	Brazil cruzeiro**	291.43-292.05
Copenhagen	11,050.6-11,107.0	11,058.0-11,085.0	30-30p	91-94p	Cyprus pound	0.080-0.100
Helsinki	152.48-153.87	152.48-153.87	15-15p	15-15p	Danish krone	16.46-16.47
Frankfurt	2,853.2-2,873.2	2,855.2-2,862.2	1-1p	3-2p	Chinese drachma	266.50-300.10
Tokyo	7,379.4-7,454.45	7,379.4-7,454.45	6-13p	4p-55p	Hong Kong dollar	15.0592-15.0689
Moscow	1,845.0-1,875.0	1,850.0-1,865.0	13-14p	25-30p	Indian rupee	34.76-34.76
Milan	216.4-217.285	216.4-217.285	4-2p	7-4p	Kuwait dirham KD	2.000-2.014
Osaka	11,237.4-11,274.1	11,237.4-11,274.1	3-2p	6p-9p	Malaysian ringgit	5.200-5.210
Stockholm	10,799.0-10,840.1	10,805.0-10,824.0	13-14p	13-14p	Mexican peso	16.46-16.47
Amsterdam	10,799.0-10,840.1	10,805.0-10,824.0	13-14p	13-14p	New Zealand dollar	3.2687-3.2671
Vancouver	20.16-20.23	20.15-20.16	11p-15p	24p-25p	Saudi Arabia riyal	3.114-3.131
Vincent	2,465.0-2,464.0	2,465.0-2,461.0	11p-14p	3-2p	S African rand (lin)	6.5752-6.5933
Premium = pr. Discount = d					Swedish krona	4.6284-4.6715
					U.A.E. dirham	2.000-2.014
					*London Bank Rates supplied by Echel and Barclays Bank GTS	
DOLLAR SPOT RATES						
Ireland	1.7895-1.7900			5.7450-5.7450	Italy	1122.6-1123.6
Germany	1.7175-1.7182			1.4870-1.4880	Hong Kong	30.74-30.75
Japan	1.7004-1.7004			1.4870-1.4880	Belgium (Cm)	27.0300-27.0400
Australia	1.3054-1.3047			1.6771-1.6795	France	19.00-19.01
Canada	1.1850-1.1873			5.0595-5.0615	Spain	95.05-95.15
Sweden	5.8373-5.8379			11.10-11.10	Switzerland	10.45-10.47
Norway	5.8373-5.8425					
					Rates supplied by Barclays Bank GTS and Echel	

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

Competing for the consumer's mind

Market research is now being used for all kinds of planning. Beryl Dixon looks at the opportunities

Analysts and interviewers were noticeably working overtime last month as the press with the public's views on the Conservative party leadership. The term market research, as it implies, originates in commerce and industry but it is more generally used as an umbrella term covering both market and social research.

Market research is a young profession, but it has grown enormously as both companies eager to stay ahead of the competition and public sector organisations have increasingly needed to know what we, the consumers, are thinking.

NOP, one of the largest employers, will not be recruiting this year, but that is due more to internal reorganisation than economic pressures. In a recession, the advertising and marketing industry, of which market research forms a part, does suffer, but not greatly because clients have learnt that too many cuts are counter-productive.

It is never a large employment area. Although the intake of graduates is increasing - 75 per cent of the Market Research Society's members have degrees - there is room for only about 200 trainees annually.

Selection processes are therefore sophisticated. With a wide field from which to choose, employers want to get it right.

If you are applying for a graduate trainee position, expect to be one of 30 candidates chasing every vacancy. Many will not survive the "paper sift", based on the application form, five will probably make it to first interview and two or three to final selection,

which is likely to include aptitude tests, group activities and in-depth interviews.

Once in, what can a trainee expect? Jackie Tripp says the work will not be interviewing people in the street or working exclusively on soap powder surveys. Marina Buckley, of Research International, says trainees will not spend all day on desk research or number-crunching. These are apparently common misconceptions. Number-crunching was once a primary function of the market researcher, and in some branches it still is.

Many organisations now expect their research executives to make verbal presentations to clients early in their careers, in addition to taking responsibility for all project liaison work. Numeracy is important, but equally so are communication skills and the ability to work with others. The ideal recruit, Mr Buckley says, would have "an analytical mind, communication and listening skills, numeracy and the ability to write concisely".

Graduates may be employed in consumer market research, the best known area, which is concerned with why and when people buy things. The food industry is this sector's largest employer, along with industrial research,

which looks at the needs of businesses, and social research, a wider field than is often realised, covering surveys carried out by local authorities on planning and housing needs or central government on attitudes to motorway planning or health care.

The two main sources of employment are in independent agencies, which account for almost half of the Market Research Society's members, and in-house research departments of companies, which account for a further 35 per cent. Other opportunities are in academic institutions and in self-employment. Degree discipline is largely immaterial, with the proviso that numeracy is expected and generally tested for, although some employers express a preference for social sciences or business studies. Only the largest of the 400 or more agencies run graduate training schemes.

Whatever and wherever the research topic, it will be carried out along these lines. The client needs information and a market research department is instructed or an agency is briefed. Where agencies are concerned, several might be approached to tender.

The research team works through the brief, discusses methodology: desk research based on published and available statistics, or field surveys based on postal questionnaires or telephone or face-to-face interviewing. The team then returns to the client with a proposal, detailing the cost and time scale.

More information: Market Research Society, 15 Northburgh Street, London EC1V 0AH (071-490 4911).



In at the deep end: Jackie Tripp contributed immediately, working on projects and writing reports

A RANGE of tailor-made projects for clients in industrial, consumer and social research is undertaken by Research International UK. Jackie Tripp, a management sciences graduate, works in the specialist units division. "That means on non-FMCG work - non-fast-moving consumer goods in jargon," Ms Tripp says. "We work on business-to-business needs. It may be for an office equipment manufacturer or for a bank, or like the one I have just completed on farmers' satisfaction with the machinery they have bought." Ms Tripp graduated in 1988, joined Research International UK as a trainee research executive and was assigned to a research group. She liked the fact that she was given responsibility quickly. "I was expected to contribute immediately, by working on all aspects of projects and writing my own reports," she says. "I also attended in-house seminars with the other trainees on such topics as sampling, statistics, different types of research, and some Market Research Society courses during my year's training period, but in the main I learnt by doing, and enjoyed presenting my findings direct to clients, rather than handing them to my boss." Ms Tripp is now a research executive and enjoys working at a hectic pace. "If you cannot keep several balls in the air at once, do not come into this job," she says. "I usually have up to eight projects on the go simultaneously and must be prepared to change plans in order to deal with the highest priority of the moment. You should see my diary. It is covered in Trippex."

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For an application pack, please contact District Personnel Department, Princess Margaret Hospital, Okus Road, Swindon SN1 4JU. Telephone (0793) 536231 ext. 3055/3056.

Closing date 10th January 1991.



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HEALTH
AUTHORITY**

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- date of birth after 31 December 1964;
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Place of employment: Brussels.

The text of the notification of competition and the compulsory application form may be obtained by writing, on a postcard, by 25 January 1991, to: Recruitment Department, competition C/322/ST, General Secretariat of the Council, rue de la Loi 170, B-1048 Brussels.

Closing date for submitting official applications: 4 February 1991.

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For full details please write to or telephone Mrs. Sue Mason, Personnel Department, East Surrey Hospital, Three Arch Road, Redhill, Surrey RH1 5RH. 0737 768511 Ext. 1164.

Closing date for receipt of applications and c.v.'s is Friday 11th January 1991.

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For informal discussions please contact: Mr D. Jordan, Unit General Manager on Lancaster 65241 ext 278 or 65771 ext 291.

Application forms and job descriptions are available from: The District Personnel Department, Lancaster Moor Hospital, Overmire Road, Lancaster LA1 3JF. Tel: Lancaster (0524) 65241 ext 484 (24 hours). Ref: HS255.

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Closing date: 18th January 1991.

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Don't just stand and deliver

By tradition, common law is common sense. The problem is putting the principle into practice. Take, for example, the growth of private wheel clamping. Is it lawful or not?

One starts with the proposition that immense inconvenience is caused by the selfish parking of vehicles on private property. In theory, the land owners could sue for damages, but that is obviously an impractical remedy. It is no use calling the police because trespassers cannot be prosecuted — they can only be sued. However, the modern option is to clamp the vehicle and then demand a fee for its release.

The problem with clamping is that it violates the principle learnt in childhood that "two wrongs do not make a right". If a ruffian entered our garden we could use reasonable force to evict him, in the same way that it may be permissible to tow away a vehicle parked on private property without permission, but we could not clamp the hooligan's legs together to prevent his escape. His act of trespass does not allow us to trespass upon his person or property.

On the face of it, to put a clamp on somebody else's car without his or her permission is to trespass upon their goods, but common sense seems to suggest this cannot be right.

What about the police? They clamp cars all the time. They are

LEGAL BRIEF

If you find your car clamped on private property you may be able to sue, despite trespass, says Martyn Zeidman. Keep your cool and follow his advice

different: Parliament has given them permission. Section 108 of the Road Traffic Regulation 1984 provides that the police are entitled to fix an immobilisation device to a vehicle where it is found to be illegally parked.

The section specifies detailed regulations as to the fixing of a notice on the vehicle and the charge for removal of the device if fixed by statutory instrument. The device used must be one approved by the secretary of state.

But there are no statutory provisions entitling private companies to clamp vehicles. It follows, therefore, that if there is a justification for the private



Sour note: a milkman looks on helplessly after his float is clamped

clamping, then it must be found in the common law.

There are two possible justifications. First, clamping a car would be an act of trespass only if it were done without the consent of the car owner. Consent can be given either expressly or by implication — it can be done without saying a single word. For example, the postman walks up our drive (our property) for the purpose of delivering letters that we may not even want, such as bills. The right to walk over our land is taken for granted — same individuals permit postmen to deliver letters.

In the same way, if a prominent and explicit notice warns that cars

will be clamped, then it is at least arguable that a person who parks in defiance of this notice is either agreeing to be clamped or, alternatively, that he is prevented from denying that he gave such permission.

Matters would be different if the car owner had a fluorescent notice attached to each wheel hub declaring: "Hands off! You have no permission to clamp this car. If you do, I will sue." If there were such an express provision, then it is difficult to see how a private clamping could lawfully carry on its business.

A second possibility occurs in those cases where a fee is charged

for parking and where clamping is carried out only where a person outstays his welcome. When we pay money to park, we are entering into a contract and if there is a conspicuous notice, it is easy to argue that consent to clamping has been made a part of the bargain, enabling clamping to be carried out lawfully.

There is a fundamental difference between clamping and towing. First, removal does not deprive the owner of his right to possession of that vehicle, whereas clamping obviously does. Secondly, the act of removal ends the trespass, whereas the act of clamping a vehicle continues it.

To park on somebody's land without permission (or after the permission has come to an end) may constitute a nuisance. In common law a nuisance can be ended by removing the offending object.

What of the man who is so indignant at being clamped that he refuses to pay the money and instead smashes the clamp? However annoyed, he should not do so. His action may amount to a criminal offence under the Criminal Damage Act 1971.

One motoring organisation advises its members to pay to have the clamps removed, but then to sue for the recovery of the sum. If a motorist wishes to take this course, he could conduct his own case in the small claims court.

● The author is a barrister.



Snap back: a "hands off or I'll sue" notice may deter private clampers

Queen's Bench Divisional Court

Law Report December 18 1990

House of Lords

Power to order forfeiture of motor car

Regina v Highbury Corner Magistrates Court, Ex parte Di Matteo

Before Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Roch

[Judgment December 12]

Courts had power to order the forfeiture of a motor car when driving while disqualified, as long as the matters contained in section 43(1A) of the Powers of Criminal Courts Act 1973, as inserted by section 69(1) of the Criminal Justice Act 1988, were taken into account.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in a reserved judgment allowing an application by Di Matteo for an order of forfeiture of a motor car imposed by Mr G. Parkinson, Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate at Highbury Corner, on June 16, 1989.

Section 43 of the 1973 Act, as substituted by section 69(1) of the 1988 Act, provides: "(1) where a person is convicted of

an offence and—(a) the court or before which he is convicted is satisfied that any property... which was in his possession or under his control at the time when he was apprehended for the offence... (i) has been used for the purpose of committing, or facilitating the commission of, any offence; or (ii) was intended by him to be used for that purpose... the court may make an order under this section in respect of that property."

Mr Patrick O'Connor for the applicant; Mr Christopher Mitchell for the prosecution; the magistrate did not appear and was not represented.

LORD JUSTICE WATKINS, delivering the judgment of the court, said that the defendant had been before the court for sentence for two offences of driving while disqualified and two further related charges of driving without insurance.

He drove his car on a road on May 10, 1989 while disqualified

and uninsured and then, on bail the next day, he again drove his car on a road while disqualified and uninsured.

He was sentenced for the offences of driving while disqualified to consecutive terms of two and four months imprisonment, suspended for two years, his licence was endorsed, he was disqualified from driving for three months for each offence and his car was ordered to be forfeited.

The order of *certiorari* to quash the forfeiture order was sought on two grounds:

First, that there was no jurisdiction to make the order because the essence of a driving offence was the actual use of a motor vehicle whereas the forfeiture provision was in respect of property whose use was subsidiary to the commission of an offence and not the offence itself and that it could not have been Parliament's intention that such a general forfeiture provision should be used by the

courts to confiscate motor vehicles in such circumstances.

Second, the magistrate did not consider the relevant matters set out in section 43(1A), namely the value of the property and the likely financial and other effects on the offender.

The court accepted that section 43, as amended, unlike other statutory provisions dealing with the confiscation of articles which in themselves constituted a danger to the public in general, could serve a dual purpose, namely the removal from public circulation of an article which had been used for the purpose of committing or for facilitating the commission of an offence and as part of the punishment inflicted upon the offender.

The applicant was convicted of an offence, namely of driving while disqualified. He had in his possession at the time he was apprehended the Ford Granada motor car. The remaining question for the magistrate was

whether that car had been used by the applicant for the purpose of committing any offence.

The magistrate's conclusion that the car had been used for the purpose of committing the offence of driving while disqualified, in the court's opinion, placed no strain on its language but was an application of section 43(1) using the ordinary and normal meaning of the words therein contained.

The use of the car was an integral part of the offence. The defendant could not have committed the offence without the car and he must have intended to drive while disqualified when the journey in his car started.

However, the magistrate had failed to take into account material matters which he should have taken into account under section 43(1A) before making the forfeiture order and therefore the order was quashed.

Solicitors: Hodge Jones & Allen; CPS.

Compensation for land purchased compulsorily

Hughes and Another v Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council

Before Lord Bridge of Harwich, Lord Templeman, Lord Griffiths, Lord Ackner and Lord Lowry

[Speeches December 13]

Compensation for the market value of land acquired on a compulsory acquisition and compensation for disturbance must in practice be separately assessed but, for the purposes of rule 4 in section 5 of the Land Compensation Act 1961, the courts had consistently adhered to the principle, both before and after the present rules were introduced, that the two elements were inseparable parts of a single whole in that together they made up the value of the land to the owner.

It was impossible to treat an established rule under the Town and Country Planning Act 1971 as being contrary to law within the meaning of rule 4.

The House of Lords so held in allowing an appeal by Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council from a majority decision of the Court of Appeal, the Justices of the Stoughton and Lord Justice Mann, Lord Justice Dillon dissenting (*The Times* November 27, 1989; [1990] 1 WLR 845) holding that under rule 4 in section 5 of the 1961 Act compensation for disturbance was not part of the value of the land.

Their Lordships also allowed a cross-appeal by the claimants, Mr Charles Arthur Hughes and Mrs Nora Louise Hughes, from that part of the decision of the Court of Appeal whereby the court held that uses which were immune from enforcement by the Town and Country Planning Act 1971 were contrary to law within rule 4.

Mr Lionel Read, QC and Mr Simon Pickles for the council; Mr R. M. K. Gray, QC, Mr Robin Campbell and Mr Neil Calver for the claimants.

LORD BRIDGE said that the claimants' land at Black Bank, Doncaster, was compulsorily acquired by the council pursuant to a compulsory purchase order made in 1973. Notice to treat was served in January 1976 and the council took possession November 1, 1981.

The total area of the site was 3.872 acres. The whole site was used by the claimants for the purpose of their business as merchants dealing in scrap metal and rags. Part of the site (the blue land) had been used for the same purpose since 1959. The claimants purchased it in 1969.

The claimants purchased the remainder of the site (the green land) in 1972 and used of the green land for the purpose of the business began then. No permission had ever been granted under the Town and Country Planning Acts for the development involved in the material change of use.

Thus, when the site was acquired, the position under the Town and Country Planning Act 1971 was that the use of the blue land, being a use begun before the end of 1963, was an established use as defined by section 94 and was immune from enforcement proceedings under Part V, but the use of the green land remained liable to enforcement proceedings requiring its discontinuance.

The first question was whether rule 4 in section 5 of the 1961 Act applied, as the council contended, to the assessment of compensation generally, including any element referable to disturbance.

The rule provided, *inter alia*: "Where the value of the land is increased by reason of the use thereof or of any premises thereon in a manner which could be restrained by any court, or is contrary to law... the amount of that increase shall not be taken into account."

The second question was whether a use of land begun between July 1, 1948 and December 31, 1963, without the grant of planning permission was, as the council contended but the claimants disputed, a use which was contrary to law within rule 4 notwithstanding that it was an established use which was immune from enforcement proceedings.

It was well settled law that whatever compensation was payable to an owner on compulsory acquisition of his land, compensation for disturbance was not a separate and independent head of compensation.

That was because, under section 63 of the Lands Clauses Consolidation Act 1845, the substance of which was now re-enacted by section 7 of the consolidating Compulsory Purchase Act 1963, the value of the land to be purchased by the acquiring authority was the only head of compensation under which compensation for disturbance was capable of being accommodated.

The other heads of compensation for which the section provided, severance and injurious affection, related only to the depreciation effect of the acquisition on other land retained by the owner.

1845 Act held that the value of the land meant its value to the owner, not its value to the acquiring authority. *Stebbing v Metropolitan Board of Works* (1870) LR 6 QB 37.

That value was to be assessed as including all the loss which the owner suffered in consequence of being dispossessed: *Ricketts v Metropolitan Railway Co* (1865) 34 LJ QB 257 and also see *Commissioners of Inland Revenue v Glasgow and South-Western Railway Co* (1887) 12 App Cas 315.

In *Horn v Sunderland Corporation* ([1941] 2 KB 26, 35) Sir Wilfred Greene, Master of the Rolls, stated: "The truth of the matter is that... in cases where the Act of 1919 applies, the sum to be ascertained is in essence one sum, namely, the proper price or compensation payable in all the circumstances of the case."

That had been accepted ever since as settling an important principle in relation to the operation of the compensation rules.

Thus, although compensation in respect of the market value of land acquired and compensation for disturbance must in practice be separately assessed, the courts had consistently adhered to the principle, both before and after the present rules were first introduced by the Acquisition of Land (Assessment of Compensation) Act 1919, that the two elements were inseparable parts of a single whole in that together they made up the value of the land to the owner, which was the only compensation which the 1845 code awarded to him.

Turning to the cross-appeal: ever since July 1, 1948, when the Town and Country Planning Act 1947 came into force, planning permission had been required for the carrying out of any development of land and the definition of development had included the making of any

material change in the use of land.

Hence, a use of land begun without planning permission, although it could only be stopped under the Act by the somewhat cumbersome machinery for the enforcement of planning control initiated by the service of an enforcement notice, was unlawful *ab initio*: see *Attorney-General v Smith* ([1958] 2 QB 173).

But the 1947 Act imposed a time limit for the service of an enforcement notice of four years from the date when the development to which the notice related was carried out. That applied to any form of development, including making a material change of use.

Under the 1947 Act regime it was customary to use the phrase "existing use right" to describe the right enjoyed by an occupier of land in relation either to a use of land begun before July 1, 1948, or to a use begun after that date without planning permission which had continued for more than four years without service of an enforcement notice. So long as a use in either category continued, the nature of the right which the user enjoyed was for all practical purposes the same.

Under the Town and Country Planning Act 1971 any use of land begun without planning permission since the end of 1963 was now amenable to enforcement proceedings without limit of time. Four years remained the time limit for the service of an enforcement notice relating to building development carried out without planning permission.

The important status of a use of land begun at any time before the end of 1963 and continued ever since that date was recognised by the local planning authorities under sections 94 and 95 and Schedule 14 which enabled any person interested in the land, on proof of the relevant facts relating to that use, to obtain either from the local planning authority, or from the secretary of state on appeal, what the Act called an "established use certificate" which operated as a conclusive bar to protect the use, so long as it continued, against the operation of an enforcement notice.

If the local planning authority sought to secure either the removal of a building or the discontinuance of a use of land at a time when the building or use were no longer amenable to enforcement proceedings, it might only do so by order under section 51, subject to all safeguards that section provided and subject also to the obligation to pay compensation: sections 170 and 178.

In the light of those statutory provisions it was impossible to treat an established use under the Act as being contrary to law within rule 4. The right to such a use was aptly described by Lord Wilberforce in *Hartnell v Minister of Housing and Local Government* ([1965] AC 1134, 1169), as "analogous to a right established by prescription".

The effect of allowing the cross-appeal was simply to restore the Lands Tribunal's valuation of the blue land at £17,500. The effect of allowing the appeal would be that compensation for disturbance would have to be re-assessed.

Lord Templeman, Lord Griffiths, Lord Ackner and Lord Lowry agreed.

Solicitors: Sharpe Pritchard for Mr W. R. Bugler, Doncaster; Gregory Rowcliffe & Milners for Taylor Bracewell, Doncaster.

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Covenant relating to property

Blatherwick (Services) Ltd v King

Where a covenant in a tenancy agreement required someone to contribute to the cost of insuring property or of repairing it or of lighting, cleaning and maintaining a caretaker to look after it, the covenant could fairly be described as a term of the tenancy "relating to" that property within the meaning of section 10(1) of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954.

The Court of Appeal (Lord

Justice Mustill and Lord Justice Nourse) so held in a reserved judgment on November 28 when dismissing the appeal of the tenant, David King, against the decision of Judge Israel Fingstein QC, at West London County Court on January 16, 1990, that his liability to the landlords, Blatherwick (Services) Ltd, to pay arrears of a service charge under the terms of his original tenancy was not extinguished by section 10(1) when he became a statutory tenant on the expiration of that tenancy by effluxion of time.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE

said that as a matter of contract the landlord was entitled to recover the tenant's contribution to service under a covenant of the underlease.

The effect of section 10(1), the tenant having retained possession of the flat under section 6 of the Act, was to extinguish his liability to contribute a service charge, unless it was (as it was) a liability which fell within one of the three exceptions covered by the proviso in section 10(1).

Taking stock to face the future

Commercial practices
are being forced to
reorganise themselves.
Edward Fennell looks
at the consultants' role

The recession could become a blessing in disguise for many commercially based law firms. The substantial growth experienced by most of them during the past three years may have boosted partners' pay packets, but it has given endless headaches to those with management responsibilities.

The difficulties of staffing, marketing and training, in addition to the complicated issues of merging, networking and venturing overseas, have left many managing partners aching for a breathing space to take stock and reorganise their firms to cope with future needs.

Fortunately, a number of reputable management consultancies are in the market to advise firms how to take best advantage of this time of consolidation. I hope we no longer regard lawyers as being innocent to the point of naïveté about the role of consultants. "Quick-fix" exercises in which superficial answers are delivered off the shelf by the consultant now tend to be shunned in favour of deeper, more collaborative undertakings. The deeper the lawyers' understanding of their problems the more they want to participate in solving them.

Denton Hall is one of the top ten City legal firms that have benefited



Working it out together: Alan Hodgart (left), the Spicers consultant, advises Geoffrey Searle (centre), Denton Hall's managing partner, and John Griffith-Jones, the firm's business development director

recently from a systematic analysis of their structure and markets. The turbulent period in which Denton Hall absorbed Oppenheimers and opened overseas offices created fundamental questions about the firm's direction. Having turned for help to what was then the market leader, Spicers Consulting Group, the partnership underwent an assessment lasting more than 18 months, during which workshops looked at every aspect of the firm's business.

Alan Hodgart, who led the consultancy team, describes consulting with lawyers as being akin to "herding cats". By their nature

lawyers are independent-minded and resistant to direction. The important thing is to identify issues and develop management systems so that the partners devise and direct the culture change that serious consultancy involves.

Now, two years later, Denton Hall has a radical new management structure in place, firmly based on the principle of consultation between partners. Democracy is essential to the partnership's operations, but in a streamlined and effective form.

With the dissolution of Spicers' excellent team during the past year, the pole position for legal manage-

ment consultancy is now claimed by Peat Marwick McLintock, whose solicitors' consulting unit is a mix of lawyers and other specialists.

Emyr Williams, the partner who leads the unit, insists that you have to be able to show that you have intellectual skills equal to those of the lawyers before you will be taken seriously.

"They will confront you intellectually and you have to be able to stand up to them and argue your case," Mr Williams says. "Above all, however, we have to remember that our job is 'fiercely to uphold the interests of the client', even if that sometimes involves us in

telling the client things they do not necessarily want to hear. We have to act like Socrates, asking relevant questions and shaping the responses to produce answers that meet the partnership's collective needs."

Peat Marwick McLintock can advise on information technology as well as the other mainstream management issues and expects that this will lead to big business when international firms decide to make good their claims about the benefits of networks and transnational partnerships.

Neal Cameron, the information technology member of the firm's consulting unit, says: "Real advantages of international networks will be realised only when compatible information technology systems are in place."

For the time being, however, many firms will content themselves just trying to build the right kind of infrastructure to sustain their enlarged partnership.

Jacques & Lewis, for example, grew by 40 per cent in two years and brought in Price Waterhouse to help plan its future.

"We chose Price Waterhouse because they offered the chance of a completely fresh look at us," John Northam, the managing partner, says. "The amount of discussion it stimulated was marvellous and enabled us to get in good shape for the Nineties with a clear sense of direction."

Proof of the pudding, Mr Northam says, was the firm's entry into the local government market after it used the consultancy. Having carried out a marketing exercise, the firm converted every enquiry into a client. "We would never have ventured into it without the benefit of the consultancy first," Mr Northam says.

INNS AND OUTS

Winners and losers

INSURANCE companies no doubt will be celebrating last week's House of Lords ruling that could save them millions of pounds when they pay out personal injuries damages claims. The law lords held that interest on a damages award should be payable only from the date when a court assesses compensation, even though the assessment may be years after the decision on liability.

Paul Ashurst, a lawyer with Russell Jones & Walker, says the law lords have failed to take the chance to speed up the litigation process by making insurers pay real rates of interest on damages. They pay the far lower rate of 2 per cent on general damages and 7.5 per cent on special damages up to the point when the court assesses compensation. Only from then is the full rate of 15 per cent applied.

"Insurers who drag out the litigation and pay damages at the last possible moment will benefit by receiving interest at the commercial rate but paying it out at a lower rate," Mr Ashurst says. He intends to pursue a change in the law with the Lord Chancellor.

Legal aid call

A SOLICITOR, who found his was the 26th firm to turn away a woman seeking a domestic violence injunction, has called for legal aid to be made compulsory. John Templeton was the solicitor featured in the Law Society's open letter last week to Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor. Mr Templeton, whose firm in Greenwich, southeast London, does substantial legal aid work, suggests that, alternatively, firms refusing legal aid work should be "taxed" to subsidise the service.

"We were unable to help this woman," he says. "We do take on matrimonial injunctions but we have to set a limit if we are going to survive."

The work involved in these cases is immensely time-consuming and riddled with bureaucracy, he says. "Every procedural step has to be notified to one's paymasters, the Legal Aid Board, otherwise you find you won't be paid at the end of it - not that one is paid much at all."

Unlike many, his firm will continue with legal aid. "The hourly rates for legal aid have been easily outstripped by inflation and the disparity between those rates and what is charged by big City firms five miles up the road is growing," he says. Mr Templeton fears that if legal aid work is not made compulsory the service will continue to diminish.

Kenya's critics

THE International Bar Association has made a formal protest to the Kenyan government over reports of the harassment and arrest of four lawyers and attempts to ban the *Nairobi Law Monthly*. The journal has a reputation for publishing outspoken views on human rights and the rule of law, and the editor, Gitobu Inyangara, is facing sedition charges. The Kenyan attorney-general is also trying to have Mr Inyangara's lawyer, Pheroze Nowrojee, imprisoned on contempt of court charges after he complained about delays.

The association has urged Kenya's president, Daniel Arap Moi, to uphold the rule of law and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The president, still smarting from the association's decision to switch its biannual conference from Nairobi to New York because of civil rights abuses in Kenya, may need more than a protest letter to move him.

No stopping

THE firm of Roger Pannone, who has arguably inherited from Sir David Mowley the dubious honour of being the country's best known litigator, is to merge. The union of Pannone Blackburn and March Pearson & Skelton by March 1 next year will make the firm the largest in north-west England. Mr Pannone is clearly determined to see that his area of the map gets its share of the action as 1992 looms. "The combined firms will be able to offer an enhanced comprehensive range of services to its corporate, international and private clients in the northwest and the merger will provide a springboard for growth in the UK, Europe and beyond," he says. "I suspect we will not be stopping here."

SCRIVENOR

No hiding place for absent fathers

TINA, aged five, started school this term. Her mother, Gill, a former secretary, wants to go back to work. One obstacle is her ex-husband, Tom, who is refusing to pay maintenance. "He earns £16,000 a year, but we don't see a penny of it," Gill says.

The system demands urgent change. Child support forms less than 10 per cent of lone parents' net income. Fewer than a quarter of those on benefit receive maintenance.

Fired by the success of the Australian Child Support Agency, which increased the number of single parents receiving child maintenance from 25 to 85 per cent, the government has decided to introduce a British counterpart. The aim is a quick solution for single parents trying to extract maintenance from reluctant parents.

Tony Newton, the social security secretary, sees maintenance as "a bridge between benefits and work". He says: "The government will ensure that children receive maintenance wherever possible and will help single parents who work or who wish to do so."

The Child Support Agency (CSA) will be a one-stop shop for 770,000 lone mothers on benefits, and others choosing to use it.

However, the CSA must settle the doubts of lawyers' groups and single parents. "The child maintenance formula is a good idea," says Jane Hearn, the secretary of the Law Society's family law committee, but she points out:

"The CSA will not be able to deal with those who cannot or will not pay."

There are fears that punitive maintenance will force fathers to go underground or give up work. More positively, the CSA will be better placed than individuals to track defaulters.

Plans under way for a national computerised network of social security records and access to the departmental central index, for National Insurance contributions, the Inland Revenue and community charge records, will limit escape routes.

The British CSA is an offshoot of the social security department not the Inland Revenue. The resulting image

may deter claimants. "I was asked all sorts of things by the DSS about my sex life that were not relevant," recalls Trisha, a single mother. "If it is the same staff I would rather not go."

How and when staff use financial penalties will decide whether the CSA is seen as a valuable resource or policing agency. Parents refusing to co-operate face benefit reductions of up to 20 per cent.

"We cannot support such a proposal," says Sue Slipman, the director of the National Council for One Parent Families. "Any reduction will adversely affect the children." Three-quarters of single mothers already identify fathers

Others may choose not to for good reasons.

The CSA must also be seen to act independently. Mr Newton gave assurances about the CSA's confidentiality duty and accepts that the appeals system will colour public perceptions of its role.

"The appeals procedure is being looked at carefully," a department spokesperson confirms. "We welcome feedback on the proposals."

Diana Parker, of the Solicitors' Family Law Association, says appeals must be tied into the court structure. "Creating another governmental body would be a retrogressive step. Appeals should be to the court where

parties can have legal representation and legal aid."

She says of the proposals: "Funds could be used to greater gain in the task of reducing conflict in family law. There is no need for an agency. What is needed is a simple formula, which solicitors could apply, and a simple route for enforcement linked into the tax system."

The Maintenance Enforcement Bill, now before Parliament, will strengthen courts' powers to improve reliability of support payments by early orders for deduction from earnings or standing orders. The CSA is due to start in 1993, and the formula, expected to double present average annual payments of about £1,000, may be in use by early 1992.

HELEN GARLICK

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Shilton's great leap to world fame

Waddle back for Shilton match

By DENNIS SIGNY

THE rise of John Major left many people in the shocking position of finding themselves older than the prime minister. The retirement of Peter Shilton from international football has been equally devastating: many of us are, at a stroke, older than any member of the England team.

Shilton has his testimonial game tonight at White Hart Lane, and I wish him a good one. The match is there, rather than at his home club, Derby, because the all-star cast needs the convenience of London's international transport connections.

Goalkeepers are remembered by their mistakes, not by their clean sheets. The highest possible praise one could give Shilton is to say that he is most vividly remembered for two mistakes 17 years apart.

It was inevitable, really, that he should make that totally un-Shilton-like bish on his last appearance for England in the third-place match against Italy during the last World Cup. And, of course, there was that stunning error against Poland in the never-to-be-forgotten Tomaszewski match in 1973. Readers younger than Shilton may need reminding that the error cost

SIMON BARNES

England a place in the 1974 World Cup finals.

Apart from these blemishes, one can recall little save that presence of brooding excellence between the posts. He played 125 games for England, with 65 clean sheets and 43 games with a single goal conceded. He let in two on 14 occasions, and three only three times.

Shilton stands for determination. There is a Boycott-like streak in him: he decided to be the greatest goalkeeper in the world and few English people would say he has fallen short of that immodest aim.

If you like to put players into categories of natural genius and manufactured talent (the Best v Keegan argument), Shilton must go into the second category. But the person who manufactured the player was himself. As a boy, he used to hang from the banisters while his parents hauled away at his ankles: he was determined to grow tall enough to be a grown-up

goalie. He says his arms are now two inches longer than is the average for his height.

One of the boring things about playing in team games is conformism. You wear a shirt with the wrong kind of buttons and you will be teased rotten for two years. The measure of Shilton's dedication is shown in his complete willingness to look an absolute fool in front of his colleagues, or anyone else for that matter. If he hits on a training routine that he believes is right, he has no compunction about acting like a clown.

For example, he used to tie bags of cement round his ankles before running round the training track (winning on aggregate, presumably). More remarkably still, the significant guru of his footballing life was a ballroom dancer. Shilton built his body to create that huge, dark, domineering hulk we know. He did a lot of weights. The trade-off was in agility. He had become a trifle static and muscle-bound.

So he linked up with Len Heppell, the ballroom dancer. "He added the final link to what I was doing. He wanted me to move as if I was in water. All flow." Shilton once showed me the way

Heppell wanted him to move at walk and in training runs. It was absolutely hilarious: like Lennie Henry's parody of the Cool Spade, the funnier for the complete seriousness on Shilton's face.

"He wanted me to walk down the street like this. I'd have got arrested. But I started to train his way and I got to feel all in one. Supple. Flowing."

There is a deep streak of eccentricity in all goalkeepers: why else would they choose to wear a different coloured jersey from everyone else in the team? Shilton has always been the man for ploughing his lonely furrow of excellence, driving colleagues mad with his search for perfection, and letting the clean sheets speak for themselves.

He has changed the face of goalkeeping as we know it, though not in the gimmicky fashion of Higuita, the charmingly daft Colombian, or Beasant, who created a style of keeping perfect for Wimbledon's new brutality.

Shilton extended the area of a goalie's responsibility. No goalie is expected any more to be a maverick tumbler hiding behind a nice big centre-half: all goalies must

boss the penalty area. But Shilton bosses the entire last third of the pitch, at least.

He pushed his defenders further and further from him, the aim being to force attackers to shoot from further out. He was always keen on the tactical nature of his role and says that in some of his best games he hasn't had a shot to save. "Well played, Shilts. Good shouting."

Shilton was seldom the kind of keeper who gave joy to spectators, like his wonderfully acrobatic rival, Clemence, or Grobbelaar, or Bonetti: all shot-stoppers supreme.

But you can think of Shilton as you would a jockey riding your odds-on shot in the Derby. A truly brilliant jockey can win one race in a hundred by sheer blinding inspiration. Any jockey can lose one hundred races in a hundred by making a hundred small mistakes.

It is the same with goalies. You do not measure a great goalkeeper by his inspiration, but by his mistakes. All goalies make mistakes — but Shilton has made fewer than most. And that is the best epitaph you could write on a goalie's international career.

ALTHOUGH the total of tickets sold for the Peter Shilton testimonial match at White Hart Lane tonight was still under the 5,000 yesterday, Chris Bell, the Tottenham Hotspur ticket manager, said the anticipation was an attendance between 12,000 and 15,000.

Although this would constitute only a break-even figure, a spokesman for former England goalkeeper's testimonial committee said: "We would be happy with that kind of turn-out."

England play an Italia '90 XI chosen by the former West German manager, Franz Beckenbauer. The match marks the return to Tottenham for the first time since his £4.25 million transfer to Marseille of Chris Waddle. He will line up along side the Tottenham pair Paul Gascoigne and Gary Lineker, the England captain who yesterday won more than £20,000 from Fifa for its fair play award for not being

cautioned or dismissed in his career.

Shilton will play in the match, as well as Arsenal's David Seaman, one of his successors in the international side. Kevin Keegan and Bobby Moore, two other former England captains, will also make appearances; Bryan Robson will play a sweeper role.

Michel Platini, the manager of France, and Osvaldo Ardiles, the former Argentine international and Tottenham player who is now manager of Swindon Town, will both play for Beckenbauer's side.

Roger Milla, aged 38, the Cameroon forward who was one of the successes of the World Cup finals in Italy in the summer, is another attraction.

ITALIA '90 (probable): N'Kono (Cameroon) and P. Bonner (Republic of Ireland); E. Gargano (Bosnia); A. Lozano (Argentina); R. Hagan (Sweden); M. Platini (France); O. Ardiles (Argentina); R. Milla (Cameroon); G. Hagi (Romania); V. Kerschner (Czech Republic); S. Shilton (England); A. McLeish (Scotland); M. Westwood (Croatia).

Lineker rewarded for a career without blemish

By STUART JONES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

GARY Lineker, the England captain, was named yesterday as the winner of an individual fair play award from Fifa, the governing body of world football. The honour, which is worth 50,000 Swiss francs (about £25,000), was bestowed upon Lineker for "exemplary conduct". It was announced at Fifa's headquarters in Zurich.

Lineker, aged 30, was a member of the England team which also collected the team fair play award after the World Cup last summer. He has earned recognition for his

behaviour throughout his career, and Fifa considered him to be "a living example of how the spirit of fair play can be crowned with personal success".

In a dozen years with Leicester City, Everton, Barcelona and Tottenham Hotspur as well as with England, Lineker has never been sent off or even booked. His stature as a gentleman and as a national ambassador is assuming the proportions of Bobby Charlton.

His career was also without

blemish. Their respective records are all the more remarkable because, as renowned goalkeepers, they were sure to be regarded as prime targets by the opposition. Lineker still is the victim of many a harsh tackle as he pursues another of Bobby Charlton's statistics.

The leading scorer in the 1986 World Cup finals in Mexico, Lineker has so far claimed 37 goals in 61 internationals. If he avoids injury and maintains his fitness, he promises in a couple of years to surpass the total of 49, set by Bobby Charlton during 106 matches for England.

Although Lineker may be accused of following the continental habit of diving theatrically — a custom he learned while he was in Spain — he has otherwise maintained the highest standard of behaviour for both his clubs and his country. Moreover, he has never been anything less than polite off the pitch.

It seemed only natural in place of the injured Bryan Robson that he should be promoted by Graham Taylor to act as captain during the World Cup.

Yesterday Lawrie McMenemy, Taylor's assistant, paid tribute to Lineker's qualities. "It is obviously a great honour for one player to be selected from so many in the world," he said. "Following on from the team award in the World Cup, it has to be a credit to the state of our game at the moment and also a good illustration of why Graham Taylor made him captain."

"He is continuing in the tradition of such internationals as Pele and Bobby Charlton on the world stage. We all take Bobby for granted because he's ours but he is respected all around the globe. Pele is held in the same esteem and with the same affection in even the most distant countries."

McMenemy added: "All three have one thing in common. They all went into the penalty area where defenders take no prisoners. They have continually scored goals at international level and whenever they've been grounded, they've got up, dusted themselves down, got on with it and never been a problem for referees."

A high-flying closing day at Olympia

Whitaker brothers steal the show

By JENNY MACARTHUR

THE formidable Whitaker brothers achieved their third double of the week on the closing day of the Olympia show jumping championships yesterday. It took their tally of wins to eight.

John, aged 35, recorded his fifth victory of the week — and brought his winnings to £10,080 — when he relegated Tim Stockdale, on Mighty McGuigan, to second place by a comfortable two seconds in the opening Cross and Blackwell Accumulator on Henderson Gammon.

Later, Michael, aged 30, had a narrower victory over Liz Edgar and Everest Rapier in the Christmas Eve Stakes, bringing his winnings to £5,600. Significantly, the brothers' successes have come at the most competitive show at Olympia since the championships started 19 years ago.

John, talking after his fifth win, had his own theory on their success. "If you win a class early on at a show it boosts your confidence and you often go on winning. We've also both got a very good string of horses and, as this is the last event of the season, we can both pick our best horses."

Ironically, John is without his leading horse, Henderson Milton, who is recovering from a respiratory virus, but the three horses he has brought to Olympia — Henderson Gammon, Grannusch and Fonda — have each contributed to his purse.

Yesterday it was Gammon's turn. The 11-year-old gelding, who Whitaker nearly lost through a lung infection last May, had been retired from the main competition on Sunday night after hitting a fence. Whitaker then decided to give him a confidence-boosting round in the Accumulator yesterday — putting Grannusch into the Grand Prix.

Gammon, clearly appreciative, jumped economically and cleanly to win by his two-second margin. "I probably made the wrong choice," Whitaker said. "He jumped brilliantly."

Michael's wins have all come with Henderson Red Wings, a horse he now keeps mainly for speed classes in Britain. "The ones abroad are



Hanging loose: Geoff Billington's comic touch, an impersonation of Annette Miller

getting too big — you almost need a grand prix horse for them," he said.

Yesterday's small, fast track in the Christmas Eve stakes was ideal for the 13-year-old gelding. His agile turns, to noisy cheers from the partisan crowd, recorded a time of 35.87sec. Mrs Edgar, who in Saturday night's speed class had the rare satisfaction of

relegating John Whitaker to second place, failed by a whisker to do likewise to Michael.

Thomas Fuchs, the winner of the Volvo World Cup qualifier on Saturday, took third place on Rusty, some half a second behind.

Michael Whitaker and his wife, Veronique, who has won £1,500 this week, will both

compete at the Mechelin Show in Belgium in ten days' time. John's next engagement is a skiing holiday in Austria with his three children.

RESULTS: Cross and Blackwell Accumulator: Henderson Gammon (J. Whitaker) 34.22; 2. Mighty McGuigan (T. Stockdale) 36.46; 3. Laver (J. Edgar) 37.16; Cross and Blackwell Christmas Eve Stakes: 1. Henderson Red Wings (J. Whitaker) 35.87; 2. Everest Rapier (E. Edgar) 36.99; 3. Rusty (T. Fuchs), Swinton 38.23.

Coaches leave national squads

By MIKE ROSEWELL

DAVID Tanner and Mark Lees have resigned as chief coach to the British men's rowing heavyweights and lightweights respectively, it was announced yesterday.

Tanner was criticised for his late reshuffling of the men's crews before the world championships in Tasmania, the two fours perhaps suffering from the withdrawal of Matthew Pinsent to join Steve Redgrave in the pair.

Lees experienced a wrangle among the lightweights when the Nottingham coxless four appealed against the selection of the London-based crew after the Amsterdam Regatta.

Both Tanner and Lees give pressure of work as their reasons for resignation from the part-time posts.

Tanner, whose international coaching career goes back to 1975, took the men's chief coach position in June 1989 "for a maximum of six months, to sort out the Bled world championships". Encouraged by Bled, he decided to go on for one more season.

He intends to continue to assist with the international effort if required, but his immediate aim is "coach regeneration".

The Amateur Rowing Association is inviting applications for part-time chief coaches for all four squads.

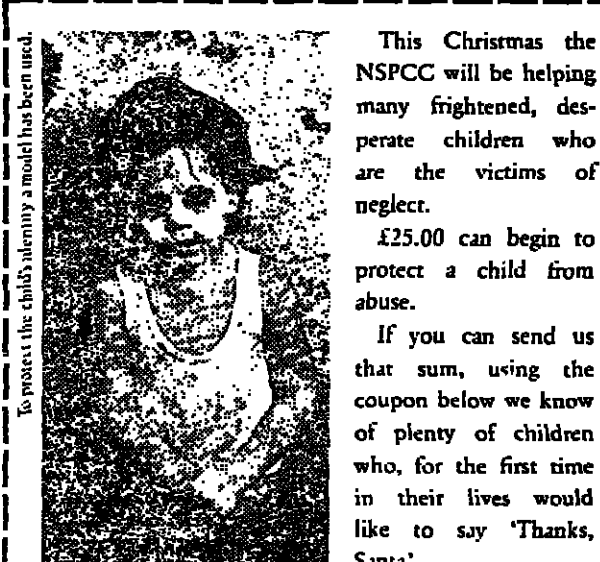
American football's £1m boost

BRITAIN'S leading American football league has won a sponsorship deal with Coca-Cola, worth nearly £1 million over the next three years.

Sponsorship of the national league, which consists of 17 teams, will take effect from the beginning of the 1991 season, which kicks off in the spring. The Coca-Cola League season will run from April and will culminate in the Coca-Cola Bowl in August.

The sponsorship announcement comprises just one element in a multi-million-dollar global association of the soft-drink company and the National Football League in the United States.

It will include Coca-Cola's backing of the NFL's annual American Bowl exhibition game at Wembley.



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New generation puts US on glory trail again

By ANDREW LONGMORE

COMMENT

IT HAS been a good month for American tennis. Two weeks ago, the United States beat Australia to win the Davis Cup for the first time in eight years, ending their longest barren sequence since the 1930s. This weekend, the Star-Spangled Banner could have been adopted as the official anthem of the new Compaq Grand Slam Cup such was the dominance of American players, four of whom — Chang, Gilbert, Sampras and Wheaton — reached the semi-finals.

"The funny thing is that two years ago I spent my time answering questions about what was wrong with American tennis," says Brian Gottfried, head of the coaching programme at the headquarters of the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) in Florida.

Not since the late seventies when the US regularly had Connors and

Ashe, Gottfried, Gerulaitis, Tanner, Dibbs, Solomon, for example — in the top 10 have they had such a strong hand of players. Last year, Michael Chang became the first American winner of the French Open since Tony Trabert in 1955 and three months ago Pete Sampras shot out of the pack of young Americans to win his home championships. Much to the delight of the New York crowd, who had become used to cheering their own men when Connors and McEnroe shared seven titles in a row between 1978 and 1984, three of the four semi-finalists — Agassi, Sampras and McEnroe — renewed that domination. Only Becker managed to uphold European interest.

have to learn the art of consistency before they can compete with Edberg, Becker and Lendl, let alone match the records of Connors and McEnroe, but they are still only 19 and 20, while Chang is just 18. Behind them come an army of US foot soldiers — headed by the irrepressible Gilbert and including Berger, Krickstein, Reneberg and Wheaton. Seven of the top 20 at the end of this year are Americans.

That success has not been matched by Australia. In 1970, the top seven players were Rosewall, Newcombe, Laver, Roche, Ashe, Richey and Smith — four Australians and three Americans. Today, there is no Australian in the top 30, only two — Fromberg and Woodbridge — in the top 50. The main reason for the decline, according to many of the older players, is that young people have life too easy, so few have the necessary drive to

beach than go to the practice court for three hours," says Roy Emerson. Interestingly, Sampras, Agassi and Chang and, among the girls, Capriati and Mary Joe Fernandez, are all the offspring of immigrant parents. Sampras's father and mother are Greek, Agassi's father is Iranian, Chang's parents were born in Taiwan, Capriati has an Italian father. "I think it's just coincidence, though there may be different values involved," says Gottfried. "Remember that Wheaton and Courier are part of the same group, though they haven't quite got the same amount of publicity yet."

Gottfried, a French Open finalist and Wimbledon semi-finalist, feels that the group instinct and the development of a coherent national junior programme of development are more significant factors in the sudden upturn in fortunes. "They probably won't realise it until later,

but each of them will be pushing the other. Sampras has just won the Grand Slam Cup and Chang and Agassi won't be too happy about that. It was the same when I came into the pros. There was a group of us and we all competed among ourselves."

"The good thing is that the next group will be able to look up to the Changs and Sampras and that will give them an incentive. But there is also a good structure in place now, whereas before it was really only 15 to 18. Now there are camps and national tournaments for 12-year-olds so that you can get a handle on who's doing what and get them on the professional programme. It's all cyclical. You'll probably be asking me what's the matter with American tennis again in a few years time."

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